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Columbia College Chicago

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Arts & Culture: CIMMFest celebrates seven years, See pg. 17

Opinions: College ratings hold no weight in student decisions, See pg. 32



6 SPRING 2015
WEEKS LEFT

THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

No. 1 Non-Daily College Newspaper in the Nation

MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2015

THE OFFICIAL NEWS SOURCE OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

VOLUME 50, ISSUE 24



How big is too big? College weighs in on increased class sizes

Lou Foglia THE CHRONICLE

Stan Wearden, senior vice president and provost, has said increasing the average class size by one student could save the college \$1 million a year. The college is also currently exploring larger lecture hall style classes to be implemented in future semesters.

JACOB WITTICH
Campus Editor

STUDENTS CAN EXPECT larger class sizes in some courses offered next semester when fall 2015 registration goes live April 6, as courses with up to a 200-student capacity could be introduced to the curriculum.

According to Dominic Pacyga, a professor in the Humanities, His-

tory & Social Sciences Department, a course of approximately 200 students has been proposed to serve as a replacement for the First-Year Seminar Program, which Stan Wearden, vice president and provost, announced would be eliminated after the current semester.

The course—which will aim to familiarize students with the history, culture and background of Chica-

go—will feature a large lecture hall-style setting in which around 200 students meet weekly with Pacyga and a teaching assistant as an introduction to the college, Pacyga said.

Wearden said increasing the college's average class size—which was 16.75 students in the Fall 2014 Semester, according to the Office of Institutional Effectiveness—by one student could save the institution

\$1 million per academic year. In response to this, students and faculty have expressed concerns regarding how increased class sizes could impact the college.

"I've asked department chairs to take a look at all their course offerings [to determine class sizes]," Wearden said. "Some classes are small just by tradition, but there's no need for them to be that small.

For example, in a lecture class you can lecture 20 people just as easily as you can lecture to 15, so it makes sense to increase the class sizes and reduce the number of sections."

Wearden said decreasing the number of offered course sections would save money by lessening the number of adjunct professors necessary.

» **SEE SIZE, PG. 10**

Survey parts sea on religion, science

ABBY SEITZ
Sports & Health Reporter

THOUGH CHARLES DARWIN'S theory of evolution is considered rock solid by scientists and researchers all over the world, politicians and public policy-makers alike have wrestled with how scientific and religious communities contrast, overlap and occasionally conflict.

A study titled "Religious Communities, Science, Scientists, and Perceptions: A Comprehensive Survey," was presented February 13 at the 2015 American Association for the Advancement of Science's Annual Meeting with the goal of getting hard data about where the Americans who comprise the

» **SEE RELIGION, PG. 14**

MEGAN BENNETT
Campus Reporter

STUDENTS WONDERING WHAT their tens of thousands of tuition dollars are doing within the college's budget can now know with the launch of the college's new budget web pages.

Developed by Michelle Gates, vice president of Business Affairs and CFO, and the Student Government Association, the web pages provide charts that break down the amount of money that goes into each section of the college's revenue and expenses.

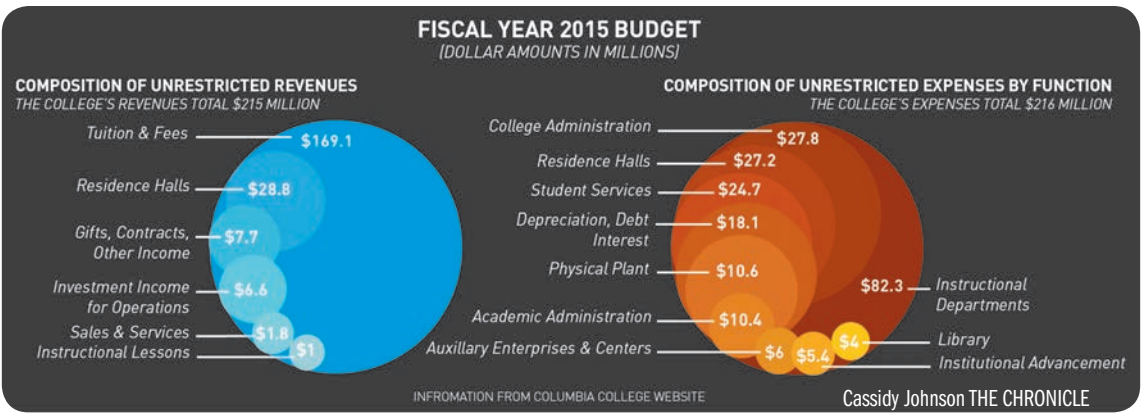
President and CEO Kwang-Wu Kim unveiled the new web page, hosted on the college's website, in a March 17 collegewide email outlining the multi-million-dollar budget for the 2014–2015 school year. Designed to inform students where the college is receiving and spending its money, a nearly identical

model is also available for faculty and staff.

The site features two charts that detail the college's estimated revenue and expenses and also reveals where the college planned on receiving and spending millions during the 2014–2015 school year.

Gates said the administration plans to update the site annually to increase budget transparency.

Budget transparency goes digital



"It tells how much you invest in the students, the instructional department and academic administration, [which] tells you what your overall commitment is in returning resources to the core of educating students," Gates said.

The college planned to bring in \$215 million in revenue, with more than three-fourths coming from tuition and fees. The expenses of

the budget were \$216.5 million, with more than two-thirds of that going toward expenses in the instructional departments, according to the website.

SGA began working with Richard Dowsek, the college's former interim CFO, last spring on a plan for budget transparency, said Sara

» **SEE BUDGET, PG. 10**



Lecturers to receive representation at college • PAGE 4



NFL Draft punts to Chicago • PAGE 11



Evolution in real time • PAGE 20



State Senate considers new alcohol law • PAGE 35

EDITOR'S NOTE

TYLER EAGLE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

When did we become just a number?

WHEN I WAS immersed in my search for the perfect college—the first time when I was a senior in high school, the second as a transfer student from a community college—the possibilities seemed endless. The search was only complicated by the fact that what so many colleges claimed as “unique” was actually cookie-cutter. Every college had a “diverse” student body, a beautiful campus and access to the brightest minds in different academic fields.

Columbia stood out for several reasons, but its intimate class sizes with a promise of individual attention and chances to collaborate with fellow students were its most attractive traits. Rather than sit in monolithic lecture halls packed with hundreds of students, the majority of the college’s classes maxed out at 25 students, and those classes were typically general education courses.

In addition to providing individualized attention, the smaller class sizes made it clear that Columbia students were more than a number. It may have cost the college more, but it was an endurable hardship because students had access to the valuable knowledge instructors impart in their students.

It seems that ideal is not a shared sentiment, though. As detailed in the Front Page class size article, the college plans to increase enrollment caps in lecture-style classes, advancing the idea that one more student in each class has the potential to save \$1 million.

Make no mistake, increasing class sizes is in no way for the betterment of the student body’s education. It is a cost-cutting technique utilized to pack more bodies into a classroom and slash names from the dwindling list of adjunct professors. Larger classes means fewer course sections offered, which in turn eliminates part-time positions.

Stan Wearden, senior vice president and provost, is quoted as saying there is little difference in lecturing to a class of 20 students than a class of 15 students. Having actually sat in a Columbia lecture-style class for an entire semester—unlike those making the decision to increase class sizes—there is a huge difference.

Larger class sizes make it harder to collaborate with fellow students or communicate with the professor. There is also the very real issue of the space constrictions of the college’s facilities. The urban campus credo is a wonderful sales point, but it also means there is little room to expand, leaving professors and students at the mercy of their cramped classrooms.

I have seen this firsthand in a class in the Humanities, History & Social Sciences Department. Rather than open additional sections, the department shuffled students into classes despite being at the 25-person cap. There isn’t enough room for everyone to sit at a desk, leaving students to scrounge for seats against the wall.



It is understandable that the college is looking at ways to save money. The college is operating at a level meant for 10,000 students, not the near 7,000 that are currently enrolled. But the logic behind some of its decisions remains mystifying, and there is little opportunity for students to voice their opinions about the matter.

Aside from being a collective of creative talent, there is little that separates Columbia from similar and cheaper colleges, public or private. The lauded pool of faculty working in the industry is shrinking. Student jobs are on the chopping block. Departments and programs have been hit with deep budget cuts, the effects of which will not be seen until next year.

And now the advantageous class sizes are going to be altered? It seems the college is flirting with the idea of offering a large public college education for a small, private college cost. The individual attention is what makes the college’s more than \$40,000 cost of attendance seem tolerable. To change that is to once again exude the perceivable belief that students are just a number with dollar signs attached.

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THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

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Nohemi Rosales THE CHRONICLE

Columbia’s Pop Rock Ensemble performed an energized set of pop and gospel hits March 16 at the Music Center’s Concert Hall in the 1104 S. Michigan Ave. Building.

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Student nationally recognized for eco-friendly project

LAUREN KOSTIUK
Campus Reporter

AFTER A YEAR of intense planning, expansive research, in-depth storyboarding and building a web of global contacts, Filip Zadro, a senior audio arts & acoustics major from Croatia, has been selected to represent Columbia at the Clinton Global Initiative University (CGIU).

CGIU, which was hosted in Miami from March 6–8, is a selective, invitation-only annual conference. CGIU invites people from national and international colleges and universities. Attendees make a “commitment to action,” or a promise to develop their projects and past the drawing board and into reality.

Projects focus on solutions to pressing global challenges such as education, environment and climate change, peace and human rights, poverty alleviation and public health.

Without any formal engineering training and only a standard understanding of mathematics, Zadro created a nationally recognized, eco-friendly project concentrating on poverty reduction in villages.

“In the next few years, people will still be talking about what countries we should help or how many people died from simple, avoidable airborne illnesses,” Zadro said. “So while they are con-



Lou Foglia THE CHRONICLE

Filip Zadro, a senior audio arts & acoustics major from Croatia, created a project that aims to deliver access to clean water in parts of the world that struggle with finding pure water sources.

templating that, I can be on the ground and prove that it doesn’t take that much to get something like this implemented.”

Zadro said he was inspired to plan his own project when his brother, a junior environmental economics and policies major at Michigan State University, was accepted into the program in 2013.

Coming from an eco-friendly

family, Zadro said he wanted to help communities that lack consistent access to clean water and energy, a problem that today’s technology can address across the globe.

His goal is to provide poverty-ridden areas with a system that will allow the community to clean and filter the local water they gather and will generate enough elec-

tricity to power the daily lives of nearly one thousand people. He also created the “building block,” which contains a low-energy computer used for communication so communities with the container can reach medical personnel and receive data packets to teach community children.

The resources generated by the building block will give the commu-

nity a chance to form a microeconomic system. Once the system is installed, the empty interior of the block can be used as a school for the local children or as a clean room for women to give birth.

“I feel what helped me stand out is that I knew I wanted to help,” Zadro said. “I knew the realities of what people are going through in different parts of the world.”

Zadro worked with David Morton, director of the Visualization Lab where students can produce 2D and 3D projects, to help develop his initial idea.

Morton said Zadro did not require a lot of help or encouragement because he believed fully in what he wanted to achieve.

“He doesn’t just talk about things, he actually does things,” Morton said.

Zadro is vice president of the International Student organization, where he works with students to plan festivals, musical performances and art showcases.

He also works with Marcelo Caplan, an associate professor in the Science & Mathematics Department, to help educate the community in the curriculum of science, technology, engineering and mathematics through the STEM program.

Caplan became Zadro’s support system throughout the process by

» **SEE ZADRO, PG.10**

College takes runway in local fashion competition

LAUREN KOSTIUK
Campus Reporter

FOLLOWING MONTHS OF preparation, eight Columbia students will participate in Chicago Fashion Foundation’s 8th Annual Fashion Design Competition and Fashion Show.

Fifteen fashion students from across the city, including Columbia fashion studies seniors Aaron Myers, Anna Ramirez, Kelcie McCurdy, Lisa Nahhas, Nicole Dieshnbourg and Yesenia Villarreal, and juniors Delvin McCray and Hannah Linder, will go head-to-head April 2 at the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St., where they will compete for scholarships and the title of “Future of Chicago Fashion 2015 Winner.”

The event will include a fashion show featuring works from the competitors, prominent Chicago fashion designers and previous winners, including 2014 fashion

studies alumnus Alexander Knox, who competed in the 13th season of Lifetime’s “Project Runway” and now interns for Marc Jacobs.

The show’s theme, “A City Within A City,” requires designers to create a piece inspired by the history and architecture of Chicago’s Merchandise Mart, said Lauren Hutchison, president of the Chicago Fashion Foundation, in an email.

“Students will gain insight into the details that go into participating in a runway show with several designers and working with models, hair and makeup teams and producers,” Hutchison said in the email. “The runway presentation will be on a grander scale this year.”

To enter, students submitted a presentation board and an essay describing their designs, Hutchison said in the email.

Finalists were then chosen to present their Merchandise Mart-inspired looks on the runway.

Myers is the only finalist presenting menswear. He said his designs were inspired by the rigid configuration and ornate interior of the Merchandise Mart, 222 W. Merchandise Mart Plaza.

“I really like the concept and theory behind my designs the most,” Myers said. “Mostly because as a designer, I really want to push that clothing is not just about the fabric. There is a message and a story behind it.”

Myers said he began working on his design in November.

“I’m a little stressed out, but that’s ok because it’s fun,” Myers said. “That’s the beauty of competition. It pushes you to another level besides just doing schoolwork and being active in the community.”

McCray said he spent more than 100 hours hand-embroidering a full-length gown for the competition.

» **SEE FASHION, PG.10**



Courtesy FRANCIS SON

Alumnus Alexander Knox won the Chicago Fashion Foundation’s annual fashion competition last year while he was a student. This year, eight Columbia students will compete.

SAM VINTON
Campus Reporter

Carpenter said the Faculty Senate made improving representation of lecturers a priority last year when it drafted a lecturer and senior lecturer policy to be included in the faculty manual. Carpenter said the initial policy was implemented with the idea that it would be revisited during the Spring 2015 Semester for review.

Carpenter said elections for the committee are open for self-apPOINTMENTS and the goal is to have positions on the committee filled in April.

At the forefront of the discussion was the administration's choice to move forward with what was perceived to be the large and drastic decision to cut FYS and its lecturers without giving Faculty Senate

Other members, including David Tarleton, an assistant professor in the Cinema Art + Science Depart-

"It's understandable the number of personnel changes, but the number of curriculum changes is unsustainable," Carpenter said.



Columbia's Faculty Senate met March 20 to discuss the administration's decision to eliminate the First-Year Seminar Program to achieve collegewide budget cuts.

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Music Department Events

Tuesday March 31

Student Concert Series

7:00 pm

Alex Algualcil Piano Masterclass at the Sherwood*

7:00 pm

Wednesday April 1

Wednesday Noon Guitar Concert Series at the Conaway*

12:00 pm

Pop Orchestra in Concert

7:00 pm

Thursday April 2

Pop Orchestra and Gospel Repertory Ensemble*

4:30 pm

at Buddy Guy's Legends, 700 S Wabash Ave.

Hope Currie Senior Recital

7:00 pm

Friday April 3

Jazz Gallery in the Lobby*

12:00 pm

Piano Forum at the Sherwood*

12:00 pm

Jazz Forum*

2:00 pm

* Events marked with an asterisk do not give Recital Attendance Credit

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SOMEONE YOU SHOULD KNOW

Professor balances two professional lives

MEGAN BENNETT

Campus Reporter

COLUMBIA PRIDES ITSELF on faculty members who work professionally in their field in addition to teaching. Theatre professor Brian Shaw embodies that ideal with an acting career that features both stage and screen credits.

Shaw, a professor in the Theatre Department and a 1986 theatre alumnus, has been at the college for 25 years and is a prominent figure in the city's acting community.

Having landed a role on the hit TV show "Chicago Fire," appearing in Steppenwolf Theatre productions and starring in Chicago International Film Festival films, Shaw's resume reflects his status as a diverse performer.

Shaw currently stars in a production of "Endgame" at The Hypocrites Theater, 4201 N. Ravenswood Ave. Samuel Beckett's dark comedy follows a man and his servant speaking about the cynical nature of life. The show runs until April 5.

The Chronicle spoke with Shaw about balancing acting and teaching, his extensive resume and his advice for aspiring actors.

THE CHRONICLE: How would you describe your experience performing in The Hypocrites' "Endgame"?

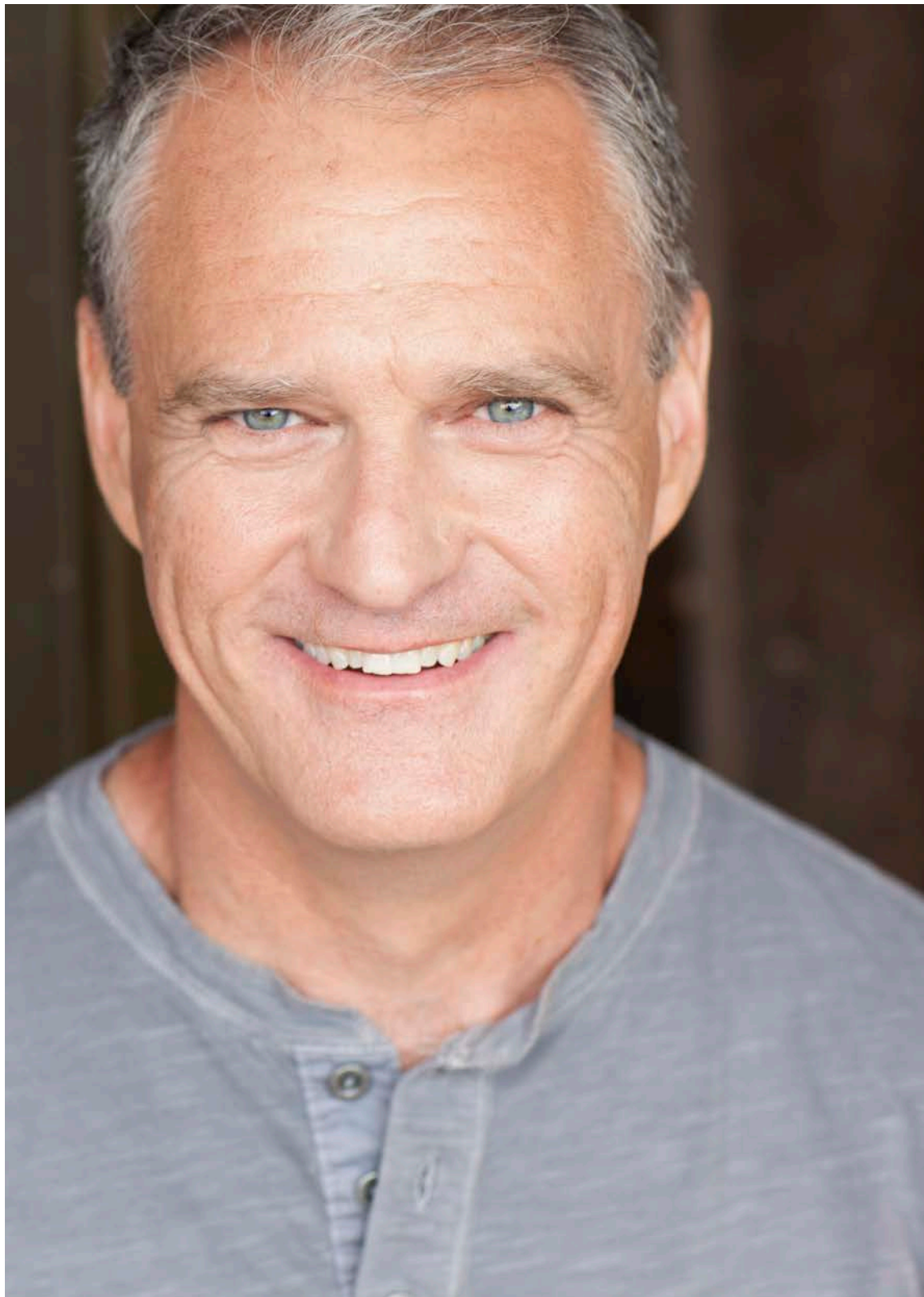
BRIAN SHAW: Earthy, I would say. The show is really funny, but also really dark and sad at times. It's a very funny and pretty chaotic [show].

How was your first time working with The Hypocrites Theatre?

It's a great organization. They approach the work really professionally but with a great sense of play, enjoyment and, again, earthiness, which I think is good. They hire really good people, [and] they hire a lot of [Columbia] alumni, which is great.

Do you have any advice for aspiring actors who want to find success in the field?

Prepare and then be prepared to play. Do all the work necessary and then be prepared to make adjustments immediately. You have to do the memorization, analyze the text, think about the character, think about what you're going to wear, make decisions about what's happening in the scene, prepare your body physically, warm up, all of that disciplinary stuff. Do all of the preparation work and then be prepared to improvise. That's definitely true on film shoots, that's true on TV shoots I've done, it's true when I've walked into voice-over booths.



Courtesy BRIAN SHAW

Brian Shaw, a professor in the college's Theatre Department and a 1986 alumnus, has balanced his careers in acting and teaching for the past 25 years. Shaw, who has credits in both stage and screen, is currently starring in The Hypocrites Theater's production of the Samuel Beckett play "Endgame."

You have to be prepared to play but to have the ability to release and enjoy yourself. You have to have done the prep work.

Do you prefer performing live or on-screen acting?

No, I don't have a favorite. They're different kinds of challenges and it's a different experience. What I enjoy is being able to shift between different kinds of performance.

Why did you decide to become a teacher in addition to acting?

That's changed over [the past] 25 years. Initially, I was curious about teaching. I've always enjoyed school,

so I didn't purely go into it in order to make a living. Over time, [I've realized] it's a fascinating time for students. It's really great to watch students come in at 18 years old and leave at 23, 24, 25. The changes they go through as young adults [make it] an extraordinary time [in their lives], so it's really great to be a part of that. It's energizing.

What do you enjoy about being a professor at Columbia?

Columbia is a great resource. I work a lot with people in other departments. There's a great connection to a lot of really interesting professionals in other areas or in my own area, so I've done a lot of interdisciplinary

work. It's a really fascinating, creative place to be, so that's healthy. I've learned a lot about the art form of theater and different [techniques] that can be applied over the 25 years through a bunch of different things I have done as a teacher but also as a professional. Mixing that outside work and the work at Columbia and thinking about how to teach those skills and apply those skills, I also feel that I have been able to experiment and explore within my art form, which is also really exciting.

Do you think it is important for students to see successful alumni?

Students want to see that [success is] possible. It is enormously important.

What kind of things were you taught at Columbia that you were able to take into the professional acting world?

You can't be a lazy sod, so professional discipline is really important—to say yes, and to really pay attention when you have an opportunity to work. Soak up as much information as you can for the people that you're working with, and make contacts and network, especially early in the work. You want to really expose yourself to as many opportunities to explore the work as you can and build a network of people who know you are totally capable of doing the work and are going to be fun to work with. Another big thing for Columbia is really enjoying the work, I think—to take a lot of pleasure in doing what it is you do.

Are there any challenges that come with balancing your acting and teaching career?

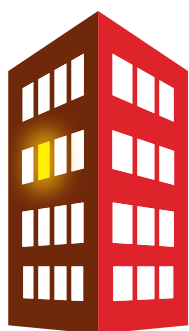
Yeah, I'm tired. It's a lot to do both those things at one time, especially when you go into the technical rehearsal and preview part of the process because you're working 10–12 [consecutive] days and [they're] long—six-, seven- or eight-hour days. Then you still have to maintain your teaching and all the stuff that comes with it. It is exhausting doing two at a time, but I've been doing it for 25 years—I work pretty regularly on this and that. I'm used to finding that energy and knowing that I have to prepare [and] that I know my schedule is going to be hectic for a period of time, so I have to make sure that I take care of myself before that. I try to do extra stuff with my kids and my wife and prepare lectures or classes ahead of time. I try to make myself prepared so I don't get too chaotic when it gets to be crunch time.

What is your method to balancing it all?

I try to do stupidly simple, sensible things like eating well, getting exercise and trying to sleep. Honestly, you just have to have the energy. I'm not 28—I can't stay up until two in the morning. I can't do that anymore. A lot of it is being sensible and taking care of myself. If I have the opportunity to get home early from school, I'll try to take a nap before I go do a show, which makes me sound like an old person, but maybe that is true.

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College inches forward in administrative searches

SAM VINTON
Campus Reporter

NEARLY ALL OF Columbia’s top administrators have left the college since President and CEO Kwang-Wu Kim took office in fall 2013.

With the March 13 departure of Alicia Berg, former vice president of Campus Environment, the only administrator still employed at the college from former President and CEO Warrick Carter’s administration is Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Success.

In addition to an almost entirely new set of administrators compared to the team from nearly two years ago, numerous searches are in progress to fill vacant and newly

created administrative positions at the college.

The college is in the process of identifying final candidates in its search for the new Vice President of Strategic Marketing and Communications, Kim said.

The college began its search to fill a new position in the Department of Marketing and Communications in the Fall 2014 Semester. Originally titled Associate Vice President of Marketing and Communications, the position was created to facilitate general communications at the college, Kim said. However, he said he realized a few months into the search that it would be better to redefine the position, shifting its focus to creating an institutional brand.

“We need someone who is clear in thinking about how you market

an institution and how you develop a coherent institutional brand,” Kim said. “In other words, [we need to] create a real strategy for developing messages, thinking about which audiences you’re trying to connect to, and then making sure those messages are connecting with the right audiences.”

The new position will develop the key message of the college to improve its ability in recruiting students and generating interest from potential donors, Kim said.

“If you ask, ‘What is Columbia College Chicago?’ and you asked a hundred people on our campus, you’d get a hundred different answers,” Kim said. “If there are a hundred different answers, then that means that the outside world has no ability to understand who we are.”

Enrollment at the college has declined by 22 percent between 2010 and 2015, according to the Office of Institutional Effectiveness. The college also struggles to connect with alumni and donors, hindering fundraising efforts, Kim said. The Vice President of Strategic Marketing and Communications position aims to address these problems.

Jonathan Stern, vice president of the Department of Development and Alumni Relations declined to comment on the college’s fundraising.

The college has hired Isaacson, Miller—an executive search firm that specializes in hiring executives in the nonprofit sector—to facilitate the search. The college has used the firm in a number of past searches, including its search for Kim, he said.

Anne-Marie St. Germaine, interim vice president of Communications & Marketing, said contenders brought in by the firm for the position have all been strong, making the search process easier.

“[The search is] going very well,” she said. “From what I understand, [Isaacson, Miller] has had excellent candidates.”

According to Kim, the college is seeking candidates with experience in higher education.

Kim said two candidates have met the qualifications with a promising combination of experience with marketing in higher education and in the private sector, as of press time.

“Without some on-the-ground experience in higher education, I think it’s too much of a learning

curve,” Kim said. “The needs at our college are just too strong.”

Kim said the hiring process has been extensive to ensure the right people are being considered for the job. Isaacson, Miller recommended candidates meet with Kim first to see if there is potential for a strong working relationship before the committee is involved, he said. The two candidates will be the first to have this opportunity.

The search for a new Vice President of Strategic Marketing and Communications is just one of many ongoing efforts to fill high-profile jobs within the college. The college is also seeking to fill directorial positions in the Department of Development and Alumni Relations and the Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

Having an abundance of open administrative jobs is relatively normal for a college undergoing major changes, said Jack Gorman, vice president of Isaacson, Miller in an emailed statement.

“It is very common for a college or university to experience an ongoing period of transition following a new presidential appointment, particularly when that president is an aspirational leader and has a profound vision for the institution,” Gorman said in the email.

With hopes to have the position filled and the new vice president in the office over the summer, Kim said the goal is for the person to be able to hit the ground running well before the Fall 2015 Semester.

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OPEN POSITIONS

Vice President of Strategic Marketing and Communication

Senior Associate Provost of Academic Operations

Chief Information Officer/Associate Vice President of Technology Services

Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management

OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS

Director of Enrollment Systems & Data

OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS

Executive Director of Alumni Relations

Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations

Director of Individual Giving

Colin King THE CHRONICLE

Columbia alums shine in Goodman Theatre play

SADIE MILLER
Contributing Writer

TWO COLUMBIA ALUMNI have returned to Chicago after successful stints on Broadway to act in the Goodman Theatre’s production of the late August Wilson’s “Two Trains Running,” which opened March 7.

A.C. Smith, a 1986 theatre graduate, plays the character West while Chester Gregory, a 1995 musical theatre graduate, plays Sterling. Both are familiar with Wilson’s work and said they were honored to be chosen by director Chuck Smith.

“Two Trains Running” is one in a Pulitzer Prize-winning series of 10 plays by Wilson titled “The Pittsburgh Cycle.” Each play looks at a decade of African-American history in the 20th century, and “Two Trains Running,” set in 1969, examines the Civil Rights Movement.

Albert Williams, a senior lecturer in the Theatre Department who taught both Gregory and Smith while they attended Columbia, said the Goodman’s production of “Two Trains Running” is honoring the 10-year anniversary of Wilson’s death.

“It’s a very important production because there’s a lot of important things going on behind it,” Williams said. “This includes readings, lectures and public programming on

Wilson and the impact of his work. To see two students from a decade apart now working in a play together, it’s a wonderful, rich circle of people coming together.”

Smith said performing “The Pittsburgh Cycle” is an integral part of his acting career and that he has been in every play of the series at least once, adding that this is his fourth time being cast in “Two Trains Running.”

“All of August’s plays are important to me because they speak to me,” Smith said.

Gregory is new to “The Pittsburgh Cycle.” He said he has long admired Wilson’s works as a chronicle of African-American history and was thrilled to be cast in “Two Trains Running.”

“This is my first August Wilson work, so this is important to me because I want to honor this man’s legacy and his work,” Gregory said. “You don’t often get a chance to work with writing this good in your career. When you run across writing so excellent and superb, it’s an actor’s dream.”

Gregory said he always wanted to work with director Chuck Smith and had reached out to him in the past about working together. Then, about a year ago, he got the call for “Two Trains Running.” Gregory said the experience [of working

together] has been nothing but positive so far.

“I would love to do as much of [August Wilson’s] work as I can,” he said. “I’m so honored to do this work and this role.”

Smith and Gregory both started honing their craft at Columbia before their careers began.

“It was the best thing I’d ever done,” Smith said. “I use Columbia’s education that I got there every day in every thing I do.”

Gregory, the first student to graduate from the college’s musical theatre program, also reflected fondly on his time at Columbia. He especially loved the concept of being taught by working professionals in the curriculum.

“That was appealing to me—people working in the field and teaching their profession,” Gregory said. “I don’t want to work with somebody who never worked as an actor.”

Gregory said he chose Columbia for its relaxed atmosphere and open admissions process and that he made the right decision.

“The techniques I learned at Columbia are still with me today,” Gregory said. “I would not have had that foundation that had me working consistently had it not been for Columbia.”

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Courtesy LIZ LAUREN

Columbia alumni Chester Gregory (above) and A.C. Smith (below) appear in “Two Trains Running” at the Goodman Theatre, 201 E. Randolph St. The play runs through April 19.

Student uses music to spread peace



Courtesy JESSICA DISU
Jessica Disu, a senior business & entrepreneurship major, has expanded her single “Still Believe, Yeah” into a tour to promote positive change in Chicago Public Schools and throughout the city.

KATLYN TOLLY
Contributing Writer

USING A PASSION for music as a tool to promote positive change, Jessica Disu, a junior business & entrepreneurship major, kicked off her “Still Believe” tour March 20 in Chicago Public Schools to promote peace in the Chicago community.

Disu, who goes by the stage name FM Supreme, is an activist and humanitarian rap artist who uses the power of music to inspire others. Disu said she wrote her song “Still Believe, Yeah” for ABC 7 Chicago to reach out to impoverished families on the South and West sides of Chicago. Disu performed her PSA during the March 4 broadcast of Windy City Live, which promoted a message to stay hopeful during difficult times.

“I’m pushing [people] to still believe in something, still believe in yourself, your education, God and your community,” Disu said. “Without hope, we have nothing. Without faith, we have nothing. I’m calling my brothers and sisters across Chicago to choose to be the light, to be the change we wish to see and make a positive difference in our community.”

Disu has expanded the PSA into an hour-long assembly that tours more than 25 CPS facilities, including juvenile detention centers and alternative education facilities.

Phillip Hampton, chief officer of community & family engagement at CPS, said Disu’s efforts will benefit students by introducing a role model that has shared similar experiences as some of the students.

“Because of the different messages and unfortunate incidents [the students] are bombarded with on a day-to-day basis, it’s good for them to see someone else,” Hampton said. “I believe, for many young people, it will be an eye-opening experience to reinforce the messages of doing the right thing. Hopefully, some of them will be inspired because they have skills and talents as well.”

Hampton said Disu has performed at CPS in the past and it was a positive experience for both students and staff.

“The purpose of this tour is to promote peace and engage young people, but also [to] tell them that we must be the change,” Disu said. “No one is going to come and save us. We must save ourselves.”

Susan Work, CEO of Holy Family Ministry, a nonprofit organization focusing on education and youth development, said Disu understands how to communicate effectively with kids by promoting peace in ways that are deeply personal and relatable.

“Jessica is a confident leader and understands how to move culture,” Work said. “She writes from

powerful personal experiences. When Jessica is at our school, [the children] listen.”

Disu said she performed “Still Believe, Yeah” March 19 at South by Southwest, an annual interactive music and film festival held in Austin, Texas. Disu said she hopes to take her tour nationwide and perform in New York, Atlanta and Los Angeles.

“It’s not easy in youth culture to find ways to get messages through,” Work said. “Jessica has discovered [this] power using music and spoken word.”

In addition to making music, Disu is also the founder of the Chicago International Youth Peace Movement, an organization that strives to establish peace in the next generation, and co-founder of The Peace Exchange, a community-based organization that promotes peace and youth leadership both internationally and in the Chicago community. Disu is also a two-time champion of Louder Than A Bomb, Chicago’s youth poetry slam festival. Disu said she is passionate about making a positive change by letting the community’s voices be heard.

“Success is not the destination, it’s the journey,” Disu said. “The feelings and emotions in the process is what makes the experience.”

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» SIZE

Continued from Front Page

“[Increasing class sizes] makes better use of our full-time faculty, getting them into our courses and getting them into bigger courses, but also in some cases it could be that we don’t need as many part-time faculty for a given satisfaction,” Wearden said.

Diana Vallera, president of the college’s Part-Time Faculty Union and an adjunct professor in the Photography Department, said some adjuncts have already lost classes because of increased class sizes. Vallera said she worries even more adjuncts will lose work if class sizes continue to increase.

She said she is concerned the administration did not consult faculty or students before increasing class sizes and reducing sections.

“What ought to have happened is the provost should have sat down with us and talked about if they’re having a financial problem and talked about what to do and [if] there should be an increase in class sizes,” Vallera said. “Then there should [have] been a dialogue about how this should serve the students. The most important thing has to be the quality of education.”

Vallera said increasing class sizes could negatively impact the

college by requiring adjuncts to do more work but get paid less, limiting the amount of one-on-one attention students can receive from their teachers and causing overcrowding in classrooms.

“When I was still teaching a lot, I routinely taught a class of 250 students—I don’t think we will see courses like that here, but I didn’t get paid more for doing that. What you have to do is adjust your pedagogy for the type of class you’re teaching.”

— Stan Wearden

Nancy Traver, an adjunct professor in the Journalism Department, teaches a writing-intensive course that typically has a cap of 15 students. Traver said she has 16 students in her class this semester, and increasing its size would make it more difficult for her to grade and give feedback on every assignment. Reducing the number of assignments given to students, however, would compromise the quality of their education.

“The only way you get better as a writer is by doing a lot of writing, so I have to give my students a writing assignment every week—it’s cru-

cial,” Traver said. “If I didn’t do that, then they wouldn’t be getting their money’s worth.”

Wearden said class sizes will be increased based on method—classes that are more skills-based will

classes seem too large and increasing their size would be impractical.

Mucci takes a world religions class with more than 25 students, and for her, that is already too crowded. Mucci said sometimes

mining if the college has the space it needs, the kinds of classrooms it needs and whether it needs to renovate any spaces.

Mucci said one of the reasons she chose to attend Columbia is the college’s smaller class sizes compared to the lecture hall-style classes at larger state universities.

Lia Srykman, a senior at Buffalo Grove High School, will begin attending the college as a theatre major during the Fall 2015 Semester. She said the main reason she chose Columbia was its smaller class sizes.

Srykman attended a private school through sixth grade where her class sizes were typically around 11 students, but then switched to public school where she had to adjust to classes of up to 30 students.

“I had a hard time adjusting because I wasn’t getting that hands-on [attention] and I had to learn things by myself at that point,” Srykman said. “It was really hard adjusting to that, but I personally think that smaller sizes are better in classrooms because of that [one-on-one] time you get with the teacher. Each teacher gets to know each student better and ... students can help each other through the learning process.”

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» BUDGET

Continued from Front Page

Kalinoski, SGA president and a sophomore art and materials conservation major. They continued their work with Gates after she assumed the position in fall 2014, she said.

Kim said development of the web pages was slow due to high turnover among CFOs—the college has had several CFOs in the last 15 years. They waited until this semester to develop the pages to give Gates time to adjust as CFO.

“Michelle [Gates] is my fourth [CFO] since I’ve been here,” Kim said. “That’s the main reason. It was waiting until we had the permanent [CFO] to develop the materials.”

The administration wanted to

be transparent because it is not trying to hide the budget details, Kim said.

“When an institution chooses not to make this information available, there’s always a feeling of ‘Why? Is there something that you don’t want us to know?’” Kim said.

Currently accessible through the college’s website, Kalinoski said SGA and Gates hope to eventually make the page available on OASIS.

“We’re so happy for it to finally be up and running for students to see,” Kalinoski said.

Kim said the web pages will most likely be updated in the summer for the next fiscal year because the budget is set to be approved in May.

Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Success, said SGA has long requested access to knowledge about

the college’s budget for students, which sparked discussion about the page’s creation.

“I assume this will be an ongoing conversation and process to help the college community better understand our revenue and expenses,” he said.

Kim said he understands student concerns about budget transparency, which is why this web page is a priority.

“We have an obligation to make the information available for students who are curious and wanting to understand how the place functions more from a business perspective,” Kim said.

Kathleen Siek, a senior audio arts & acoustics major, said having this information available to students is helpful, especially because their tu-

ition dollars fund the college. Tuition counts for \$169.1 million of the college’s \$215 million unrestricted revenue for the 2015 fiscal year, according to the website.

Siek said students should be informed about the college’s finances, but they may find difficulty understanding the details on the web page regarding how the millions of dollars are divided.

“I don’t know how well the average person would read into it and be able to derive information from it,” Siek said. “It seems like if you’re not already well-versed in revenue and where this stuff goes, you might not understand what [the information] is.”

Kalinoski said she thinks the detail on the site is insightful and easy for students to understand.

“I’m glad they explained each section because maybe not everyone would understand what [they mean], so I think it’s very important that they had that breakdown of where the money is being spent so you could see what each [section of data] represents,” Kalinoski said.

There are long-term benefits to having this information released, Kim said.

“I’m trying to build across the college a culture of accountability,” Kim said. “Accountability starts by first making information available to the community so that if there are questions, they are based on facts and data. When information is not provided, people create their own.”

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» ZADRO

Continued from PG. 3

allowing Zadro an environment to grow and flourish.

“I was supporting him, but he is the artist of all this work,” Caplan said. “He was the leader and he was the mastermind.”

Caplan helped him consult with other professionals, investigate further into the project and help calculate what level of electricity is needed to generate the building block on a daily basis among other tasks.

“I am so proud of him that he has a future, sees the future and moves toward the future, not because it’s part of the plan, but because it is his passion to be an excellent professional,” Caplan said.

At the conference, Zadro met students from universities such as Yale, Harvard and Cornell and said it was fantastic being able to tap into lots of different people.

He said he has not hit his proudest moment yet, but he was happy to see the project received with such open arms at the CGIU conference.

“It gave me a sense of accomplishment and sort of a sense of relief to know I didn’t waste a year of my time to have the bubble burst on me,” Zadro said.

The project is currently still in the engineering process and Zadro said he hopes to start the building procedure soon. He said he plans to have the first unit on the ground in Rwanda in early 2017.

In the meantime, Zadro plans to pursue his master’s degree in environmental policies and economics or ideology. He then hopes to turn it into a Ph.D. in a similar field.

“I would like to see more students take risks and explore things that are beyond the frame that they are putting to themselves,” Caplan said. “That is what Filip is all about.”

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Courtesy FRANCIS SON

The Chicago Fashion Foundation presented 2014 fashion alumnus Alexander Knox with a scholarship at last year’s 7th Annual Design Competition and Fashion Show.

» FASHION

Continued from PG. 3

“It was a big challenge; a lot of things I did were for the first time,” McCray said.

McCray said he was inspired by the metal gray and rusty blue colors of the Merchandise Mart’s exterior. He researched the history of the building to find texture and structural elements to incorporate into his designs.

“It’s exciting, but I want to see it come full circle,” McCray said.

Looks are judged by a panel of industry professionals. The first place winner will win a \$5,000 scholarship and the second and third place winners will receive scholarships of \$1,000 and \$500, respectively.

Winners will be chosen based on overall execution of the design as well as craftsmanship, attention to detail and fabric selection, Hutchison said in the email.

In addition to the student designer competition, the foundation will present the second annual Future of Chicago Fashion 2015

Student Business Competition. Students must focus on a business proposal detailing a new product or plan in the fashion industry. The winner will be announced during the event.

“I hope that the students are able to learn from the experience and the process of having your designs walk down a [professional] runway,” Hutchison said in the email. “There is a lot to gain from participating in a design competition.”

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Chicagoans gear up for ‘Draft Town’

NANCY COOPER
Sports & Health Reporter

THE 2015 NFL Draft is coming to Chicago April 30–May 2, and the city is embracing what is becoming known as the springtime equivalent of the Super Bowl.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced last fall that the 80th NFL Draft will be held at the Auditorium Theatre at Roosevelt University, 50 E. Congress Parkway, this spring.

“We are excited to have fans from throughout the Midwest experience the NFL draft,” Goodell said in an Oct. 2 NFL Communications press release. “Mayor Emanuel and the City of Chicago presented us with numerous ways to enhance the draft experience for our fans and incoming players.”

The NFL is relocating the draft from New York City’s legendary venue Radio City Music Hall for the first time in a decade. The last time the draft was held in Chicago was in 1964 at the Sheraton Hotel, then at 500 N. Michigan Ave., ac-

cording to the press release from the NFL.

Howard Schlossberg, an associate journalism professor at Columbia, said the NFL experience in Grant Park will be a boom for the city both economically and from a media standpoint.

“I think it wouldn’t have been here [in Chicago] if Radio City Music Hall wasn’t booked, but it was,” Schlossberg said. “In some respects, we got lucky. In other respects, it’s a chance [for Chicago] to show itself off on national TV one more time. The NFL experience going on in Grant Park will be great for all the people in town.”

In addition, R.C. Fisher, a draft analyst for CollegeFootballMetrics.com, said in an email that it was time for a change from the same New York location.

“I am looking forward to the draft held in Chicago,” Fisher said. They should take every prospect to [the] Willis (Sears) Tower and make them walk out on the Skydeck, and film it. If not only to have them stop playing that Alicia Keys’ ‘Empire State of Mind’ between every NFL



STOCK PHOTO

Draft commercial break on ESPN.” Alderman Bob Fioretti (2nd Ward) said this is an exciting time for Chicagoans and an opportunity to promote travel to the city.

“Roosevelt is an iconic structure in the city,” Fioretti said. “I think

people will be very impressed with what the city has to offer.”

City records show that much of the Grant Park area is reserved for the two weeks, as well as a strip of Congress Parkway between Michigan and Wabash avenues.

Draft Town will take place in Grant Park, where there will be a free, 900,000 square-foot interactive fan area, including more than 15 football fields,

» **SEE DRAFT, PG. 15**

Improved HPV vaccine protects against 9 types of the virus

KATHERINE DAVIS
Associate Editor

IN AN EFFORT to reduce sexually transmitted infections among young people, scientists in London have developed a new human papilloma virus vaccine that inoculates people against nine strains of the virus.

HPV is a sexually transmitted infection that can lead to cancer, and although there are two HPV vaccines available, Gardasil and Cervarix, they only protect individuals from 70 percent of all cervical cancers—types 16 and 18. Like prior vaccines, the new vaccine Gardasil 9 is administered by three injections during a period of six months. Trials suggest that the vaccine protects individuals against 90 percent of cervical can-

cers, according to a study published in the Feb. 19 New England Journal of Medicine.

In the study, which took place at the Queen Mary University of London, more than 14,200 young women ages 16–26 from North America, South America, Europe and Asia were given either Gardasil or Gardasil 9, said Elmar Joura, lead author of the study and an associate professor at the Medical University of Vienna in Austria.

The results showed that patients who received the Gardasil 9 vaccine were diagnosed with fewer cases of cervical, vulvar or vaginal disease related to HPV types 31, 33, 45, 52 and 58. The efficacy rate of the new vaccine was 96.7 percent, according to the study.

Joura said Gardasil 9 may have positive repercussions for wom-

en at risk of developing cancer from HPV infections, resulting in a reduction in routine cervical cancer screenings.

“It will definitely have an impact on cervical cancer screening because you will see less and less cancers and also less pre-cancerous lesions,” Joura said. “The age to start screening might change, and also the number of examinations during someone’s lifetime may substantially be decreased.”

According to the Illinois Department of Public Health, only 6.38 percent of Chicago women ages nine to 26 have received HPV vaccinations compared to the 4.35 percent of men of the same age bracket who have also received the full course of vaccinations.

Nita Lee, an OB-GYN who specializes in cervical oncology and an

assistant professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Chicago, said since the creation of Gardasil, HPV in young people is now easily preventable, and the new more effective vaccine will help reduce more instances of HPV-related cancers.

“The newer vaccine is actually exciting because of the fact that it does have additional viral strands that it protects against, versus just doing 16 and 18, in terms of what the cancer-causing strains were,” Lee said. “Gardasil 9 tries to get a better population estimate about which viral strains are going to be the most effective and target the clinical problem.”

Lee said the majority of women who have an HPV infec-

tion will never develop cervical cancer. STD, STI and HPV testing and pap smears are the best methods to detect which cells are pre-cancer or cancer cells and which are merely infectious, she said.

There are more than 140 types of HPV that are known to infect the genital tract and 13–14 high-risk strains that are known to cause cancer, said Sylvia Ranjeva, a Ph.D. student at the University of Chicago. Two of those high-risk strains, 16 and 18, are known to cause 80 percent of all cervical cancers and are rendered harmless by the existing vaccines. Low-risk strains, such as types 6 and 11, do not cause cancer but result in other types

» **SEE HPV, PG. 15**



MONDAY, MARCH 30

Chicago Blackhawks
vs. Los Angeles Kings

Time : 7:30 p.m.
Place : United Center
Where to watch : CSNC

TUESDAY, APRIL 2

Chicago White Sox
vs. Arizona Diamondbacks

Time : 2:10 p.m.
Place : Chase Field
Where to watch : MLBN

THIS WEEK IN

SPORTS

260612

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

Chicago Bulls
vs. Detroit Pistons

Time : 7:00 p.m.
Place : United Center
Where to watch : WGN

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

Northwestern Wildcats
vs. Illinois Fighting Illini

Time : 1:00 p.m.
Place : Rocky Miller Park
Where to watch : BTN



NBA season a fitting length

THE NBA SEASON isn't too long or too short; 82 games is just right.

NBA commissioner Adam Silver has been open about extending the league's season, which would reduce the teams' burden of back-to-back games. That works, but only if the 82-game season remains in place with more time between each game.

Having 82 games keeps statistics functioning the same way rather than skewing numbers, making it easier to prove who the best players of all time are.

Shortening the season, which players and critics alike are arguing is the smarter alternative, would cause more damage and dysfunction to the teams and the game.

Players will be unnecessarily hasty because there will be fewer games to secure a playoff spot, which makes way for reckless actions both in practices and in games, consequently resulting in more injuries. In a season with, say, 60 games instead of 82, every player's injury is detrimental to each team's future success and to the prospective playoff picture.

It also means less revenue for the league as well as a longer off-season, which leaves time for players to rack up rust. It'll take longer

for them to get back to top form. It's painful to see a player come back with so much of a sense of urgency that they put their bodies on the line for the win. Ask D. Rose fans.

Rather than shorten the season or extend it—a proposal that the league's beat writers around the country have been unpacking since before San Antonio Spurs coach Gregg Popovich's comment that he wouldn't come in to work in July—the league should start earlier.

A minor problem with starting earlier is the conflict of deciding whether to watch a season opener or Major League Baseball's World Series, as was the case Oct. 29, when the Bulls' first game was the same day as Game 7 of the World Series.

Still, more sports are better than less, and flipping between stations is not that big of a deal considering the popularity of digital video recording systems and league-access apps. Network providers and TVs even allow viewers to watch more than one channel simultaneously, a capability that is, quite frankly, not new.

Arguing that the season being extended will make it boring is saying that the sport itself is only enjoyable in moderation, and true basketball fans would argue otherwise.



ABBAS HALEEM COPY CHIEF

Besides, who wouldn't want to see how many games the New York Knicks could lose in a single season? Fewer games means fewer losses, and that means fewer jokes. Sure, it might make Knicks fans feel better, but at what cost?

The league functions adequately with the current amount of games. The dysfunctional part about it is teams having to play two games in two days and then have only a day between each game for the next two weeks. It leaves teams struggling to watch game film, address their weaknesses and rest adequately between days on the court.

The problem isn't how many games the teams play—it's how many days they have to play them.

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FEATURED ATHLETE

ANTHONY WILSON
Sport: Hockey Team/School: Columbia College



Courtesy TOM FERTSCH

MAX GREEN
Sports & Health Editor

FEW FILM STUDENTS would claim "Space Jam" as their favorite movie, but for Anthony Wilson, a sophomore cinema art + science major, it is one of several things that set him apart.

In addition to playing hockey, baseball and lacrosse for the Renegades during his time at the college, Wilson, a suburban Detroit native, enjoys rapping and competed in the college's freestyle emcee battle last year. He likes to snowboard in the winter and owes the development of some of his competitive spirit to ping pong, a game he played with his brothers growing up.

The Chronicle spoke with Wilson about his family ties to ice hockey, his early days experimenting with filmmaking and the future of sports at the college.

THE CHRONICLE: How did you get started with sports?

ANTHONY WILSON: Hockey is the main sport I played growing up. My dad got me into it really early. My two older brothers played, too. I've played that since I was about three years old, as soon as I was old enough to get into skates. That was kind of our sport, but once I got into school, I started getting into other sports like basketball and football, even track. But baseball was something I had never played until this year. I mostly joined the team because I wanted to meet new people and it looked like a fun sport. I wanted to try something new.

What was it like getting involved with the Renegades?

The experience has been really crazy. No one was really expecting the hockey team to become an actual organization, but we had a lot of dedicated members and people trying to help get it together as a real team and get people out there to play. We had the idea in the fall and we ended up getting the team up and running by December. The experience has been wild. The la-

crosse team also, I know it was a team a couple of years ago, but it's just started up again this year. It's crazy to see how many people at this school are interested in playing sports—the amount of people we get to try out and go to the meetings and everything like that. I think it's a cool opportunity for everybody. I know on the hockey team we had a show out of 22 people that signed up for the emails and everything to run practices. I know a lot of them haven't even ever played hockey before, they just wanted to try it out and try a whole new experience. The team is really open to all players from all skill levels, so it's cool to have everybody from all different types of skill levels come out and play just for fun.

Did you always want to pursue a career in film?

Yeah, it's the only thing I saw myself doing as a kid. Ever since elementary school, I remember making a whole bunch of home movies with my brothers and my friends and putting them on YouTube. Just stupid little parody movies and things like that. Ever since then, it's been my main passion and I want to pursue it now. My concentration is still up in the air, but I'm mainly intrigued by directing, cinematography and documentary filmmaking. For now I'm kind of experimenting in all aspects of film—music videos, short films, sketches, basically anything, but when I'm out of college I want to pursue moviemaking and actually making feature films and short films.

What other sports would you like to see at Columbia?

I guess the next step would be a football team, which I don't think will ever happen, but realistically, probably a basketball team. I think that would be cool and I think it could be done easily since the Roosevelt gym is right there, and I know Columbia students are allowed to play.

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WEEKLY WORKOUT



MAX GREEN
Sports & Health Editor

HIGH KNEES ARE a simple, effective exercise that can be performed anywhere. They require no equipment beyond a pair of sneakers and a desire to improve one's cardiovascular stamina. However, as ba-

Strength Training: High Knees

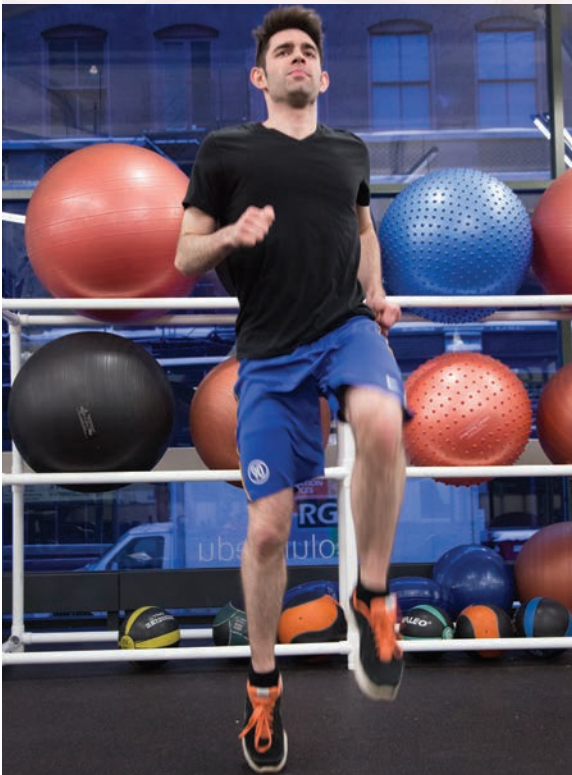
sic a movement as high knees are, it is still vitally important to practice proper form and perfect technique while getting the blood pumping and driving those gams higher.

1. Begin by firmly planting feet about hip-width apart. Be sure to keep the shoulders back and the back straight but not overextended.
2. Raise one leg up from the ground, bending at the knee. For beginners,

raising the knee to the point that the thigh is parallel to the ground is high enough.

3. Alternate legs until reaching a comfortable tempo. You should be jumping at a relatively quick pace. Be careful not to heel strike, which place unnecessary stress on the ankles as well as the knees.

mgreen@chroniclemail.com



Kaitlin Hetterscheidt THE CHRONICLE

Sex education influences teens' knowledge, activity

ABBY SEITZ
Sports & Health Reporter

LET'S TALK ABOUT sex. Young adults learn about sex from a handful of different sources, but research suggests teachers rather than parents are now the most common givers of “the talk” for adolescents.

New research published March 5 in the British journal *BMJ Open* reveals the most common resource for sexual education of teens is sexual education in schools.

The research, compiled through the National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles, was conducted from 2010–2012 and surveyed more than 3,400 young people ages 16–24 about their source of information and their sexual habits.

Researchers at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, University College London and NatCen Social Research contributed to the two studies. One analyzed sources of information and the source's impacts on sexual health, and the other examined the effects of education on sexual patterns of British young adults.

According to the study, 41 percent of females and 39 percent of males reported sexual education in school as their main source of information, while 24 percent of respondents from both genders said their friends were their main source of information. Others reported parents, siblings, health pro-

fessionals and the Internet as their main source. Those who received most of their information from the school reported having sex for the first time at a later age, according to Wendy Macdowall, co-author and lecturer at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

“There appear to be additional benefits to learning mainly from school for young women, as they were also less likely to have experienced sex against their will or feeling distressed about their sex life, though this was not the case for men,” Macdowall said in an emailed statement. “They were also less likely to report unsafe sex or having ever been diagnosed with a sexually transmitted infection.”

The influence of school sexual education on young adults can be utilized, according to Macdowall.

“[Widespread quality] sex education in schools would help to eliminate the current lottery so that all young people can expect good quality sex and relationships education taught by trained teachers,” Macdowall said in the email.

The study also reports that 41.6 percent of men and 46.8 percent of women desired more psychosexual information than they had received. According to the study, 68.1 percent of men and 70.6 percent of women thought they did not know enough about sex when they first engaged in sexual activity. The research stresses the need for improved sex-

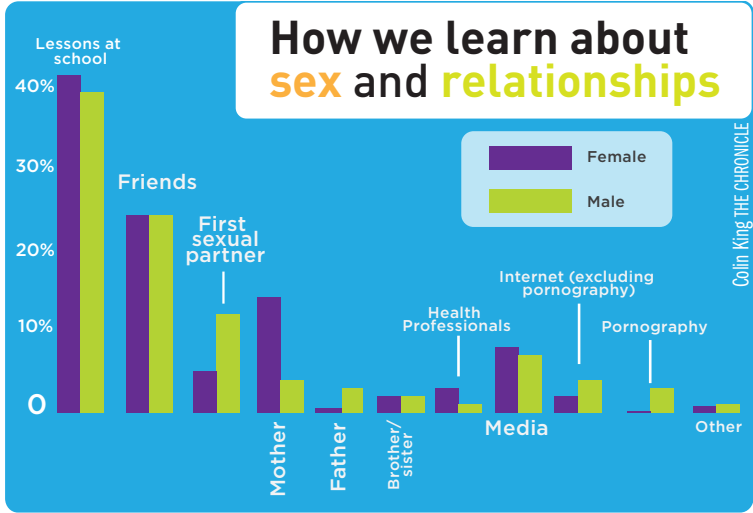
ual education both from the school and students' parents, according to John Santelli, the department chair and professor of the Heilbrunn Department of Population and Family Health at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health.

“[Parents] put [the sex talk] off sometimes and then when somebody becomes romantically involved, there's sort of a catch-up game,” Santelli said. “That's probably why the Internet is so important today, because young people can get information pretty rapidly.”

The U.S. equivalent to the British survey, The National Survey for Family Growth, is performed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, according to Santelli.

“I think the trends over time and the information is very interesting,” Santelli said. “There's some other interesting things, particularly compared to U.S. data. The area where [Britain] is not making progress is in the communication between adolescents and parents. Those numbers seem to be dropping, which is interesting. You see much higher numbers about parental discussions with their teenagers in the U.S. The other big notable is that they see fairly low rates of Internet use. What we're seeing in the U.S. is the use of the Internet to get sexual information.”

Answer, a program in coordination with Rutgers University, serves as a resource through their



website and magazine, *Sex, Etc.*, for teens who have questions about sexuality. Answer also trains teachers to provide comprehensive sexual education, according to Director of Communications Lucinda Holt.

“[Answer makes] sure educators are prepared to provide the information that young people need,” Holt said. “Some people will say, ‘Oh, well parents will do it.’ If you ask some adults specific questions about sexuality, they may not know the answers, so we need someone who is actually trained to provide high-quality sexual education for young people.”

Sexual education in schools is only required by 22 states and the District of Columbia, according to the Guttmacher Institute. Eighteen states and D.C. require curriculums to include information about

contraception, whereas 39 states require abstinence to be taught in schools. Holt equated the importance of sexual education to other academic subjects taught in school.

“If you aren't educated about [sex], it's not like you're going to turn 18 and magically know it all,” Holt said. “We educate small children about numbers so they are able to build on it and are able to do more complicated functions when they get older. It's the same with sexual education. Small children need to learn about what it means to be a good friend or how to respect another person's boundaries so that when you're older and learning about relationships, you can relate to a partner in a way that's respectful.”

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» **RELIGION**

Continued from Front Page

nation’s foremost religions stand on science.

The study surveyed 10,241 Americans who identified as being in one of eight religious groups: Evangelical Protestants, Mainline Protestants, Catholics, Jews, Mormons, Muslims/Hindus/Buddhists/Sikhs/Jains, Atheists/Agnostics/no religion and Something Else. Survey respondents were asked questions regarding their religious practice, consumption of scientific news, whether science and religion conflict, scientific education in schools, and views on evolution.

“There’s a lot of stereotypes and myths [about religious people],” said Chris Scheitle, co-author of the study and professor of sociology at Saint John’s University. “If you ask someone who’s not religious, ‘What does a religious person think about science?’ you might get a response like, ‘Religious people hate science,’ or ‘They’re against science.’ The reality is much more complicated than that. When you look at some questions, religious individuals express a great deal of interest in science. In some cases, depending on how you word the question, they’re equivalent to anyone else.”

The survey revealed that nearly 70 percent of Evangelical Christians do not view science and religion as being in conflict. Forty-eight percent of Evangelicals view science and religion as complementary to one another, com-

pared to 38 percent of Americans overall. Twenty-one percent of Evangelicals consider science and religion to be entirely independent of one another, compared to 35 percent of Americans, according to the study. Of all respondents, 22.9 percent identified as Evangelicals.

“What you find is people aren’t particularly strongly opinionated about any particular narrative,” Scheitle said. “Whether or not it’s 10,000 years [of] creation or 6 billion years, what’s important is they seem to want some sort of role or to maintain some sort of place for God within that process.”

A disconnect between religion and science does become apparent when topics such as evolution were addressed in the study, according to Connor Wood, director of communications at the Institute for the Bio-Cultural Study of Religion.

“There are some pretty big gaps in the percent of Evangelicals who do not accept the reality of evolution,” Wood said. “These are self-reported Evangelical Christians, [and] 76 percent doubt that life on earth, including humans, evolved through a process of natural selection. Nearly 60 percent of Evangelicals doubt that climate change is human-caused. About 56 percent doubt the Earth is 4.5 billion years old. These are all significantly higher percentages than the American populace as a whole and they’re much higher than scientists.”

Wood said it is important to emphasize a widespread understanding of scientific research.

“Anybody who doesn’t see how [this data] is important is not paying attention,” Wood said. “Data suggests global warming is a real thing, it’s going to really affect us, and we can’t get it together to start really tackling it because more than half our population doesn’t accept the science. If we learn who the

folks are who don’t accept it and what their motivations are, that’s the first step toward bridging that gap and coming to a consensus on climate change, evolution and these kinds of cultural divides.”

Celebrating religious holidays or attending services creates a community for a religious individual, and scientific research that conflicts with one’s religious beliefs threatens that sense of community, Wood said.

“There are parts of our brains that are aware, that get triggered when we sense that our foundations of our community are being attacked,” Wood said. “For an Evangelical Christian, the Bible and the Christian teachings, as interpreted by their pastors, are the foundations of their community.”

The cognitive dissonance people can experience when their core beliefs are challenged can result in the perception of a real danger, Wood said. It can feel like a life-or-death level threat.

Evangelical Christianity does not have a governing body to distribute its official stances on scientific

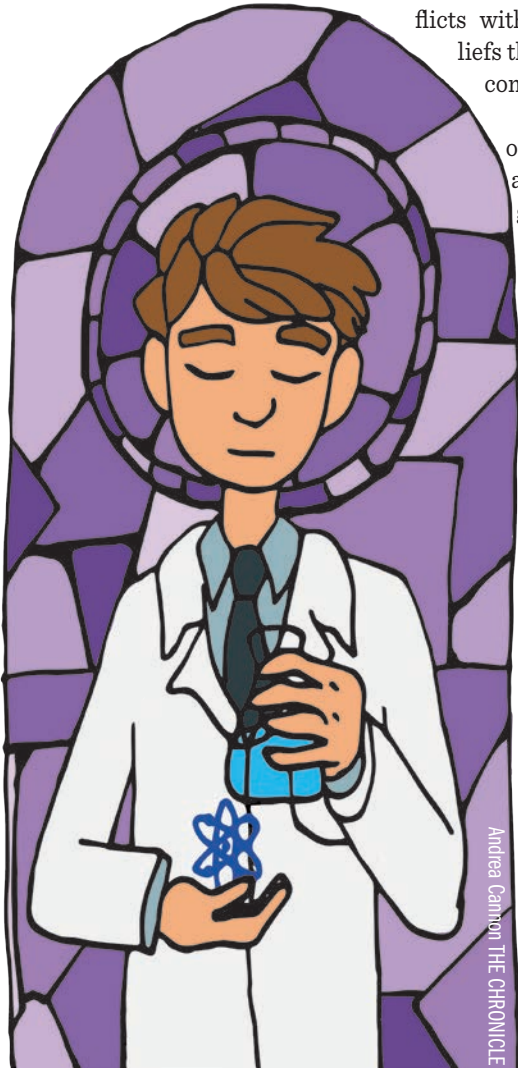
matters, according to Jacob Heiss, associate pastor at The First Evangelical Free Church of Chicago in Andersonville.

“Evangelicals have a diverse set of responses to science, but in general, a positive one,” Heiss said. “Most Evangelicals that I have encountered or that I’ve researched would be really reticent to dismiss the results of science offhandedly. Most Evangelical Christians value theology, they value science, and what they want to do is try to resolve those two spheres of inquiry as much as possible.”

Scheitle said the purpose of the study was to create a better understanding of the relationship between religious and scientific communities, as well as debunk popular myths and stereotypes of religiously observant Americans.

“What we are trying to do is provide a little more nuanced portrayal of what religious Americans think about science,” Scheitle said. “It’s not necessarily one of pure and inherent conflict between religious people and science or scientists. That doesn’t mean there aren’t any tensions or any areas of real conflict, but it’s not something where religious people are balling up because of scripture and putting it in their ears and ignoring science. Many religious individuals are interested in science and want to understand science, but have concerns about what science means for their view of God or humanity.”

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» NFL

Continued from PG. 11

autograph sessions and a Super Bowl museum, NFL Spokesman Brian McCarthy said in the Tribune article.

Selection Square, located across from the Auditorium on Michigan Avenue, will function as draft headquarters where news of selected picks will be delivered to fans in real time over the course of the three days. In addition, draft picks will head to Selection Square for interviews in front of the crowds.

Round one of the festivities will kick off April 30 on Michigan Avenue with incoming football prospects walking the red carpet, while 32 former NFL Legends members—one representing each team—will be on hand for the second-round selections, according to the press release.

Rounds four to seven will be held outside Selection Square, where various teams across the country will announce player picks. Plans also include Buckingham Fountain lighting up with each football team's respective colors as selections are announced.

The Chicago Bears have the seventh pick in the first round, according to a Feb. 3 NFL Communications press release.

According to Fisher, the Bears will primarily be looking for a pass rusher or defensive end/outside linebacker type of prospect.

Fisher said in the email he predicts the Bears might go with Ala-

bama wide receiver *Amari* Cooper. He said in the email that if Vic Beasley—a Clemson edge rusher—is gone, the Bears may not let Amari Cooper pass them up at the number seven slot.

“At the same time, another wide receiver to go with Alshon Jeffery is a need and [is] tempting with their No. 7 overall pick,” Fisher said in the email. “Cooper is near guaranteed to be a star in the NFL for many years.”

The relocation of the Polish Constitution Day Parade will conflict

as long as taxpayers are not on the hook for it.”

Fisher said in the email that it will be a major economic and status boost for cities to host the NFL Draft, and its popularity is only beginning for fans.

“The NFL Draft is like a football version of Comic-Con,” Fisher said in the email. “What was once an ‘insider’ thing seen for super fans only has now turned into a more mainstream event that attracts massive crowds, celebrities and sponsors. All this NFL Draft

“The NFL Draft is like a football version of Comic-Con.”

—R.C. Fisher

with draft festivities both time- and location-wise. The Polish parade is a 124-year tradition and is being moved to an alternate route in light of the draft, according to the Tribune article.

The article also stated that city officials have pledged for no taxpayer money to be used to fund the draft and that Choose Chicago, a local tourism agency, will cover all expenses through fundraising.

“I think that it's important we do it the right way,” Fioretti said. “I think it will be a good thing to talk to people of the city and embrace what needs to be done. Hotels will fill up, people will be coming from all over to watch the draft. It's an exciting time for the city of Chicago

information, analysis and drama feeds into America's love of Fantasy Football as well, which is an industry that has exploded as an economic powerhouse in recent years.”

The Bears announced the team will sell tickets for the draft activities at the Plaza at the Park Grill entrance of Millennium Park.

Draft Town presented by Oikos Triple Zero will be a free event.

The area will feature interactive elements such as flag football competitions, concessions, player appearances, autograph signings and an NFL Draft shop according to a March 19 press release from NFL Communications.

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» VACCINE

Continued from PG. 11

of STI symptoms such as genital warts, she said.

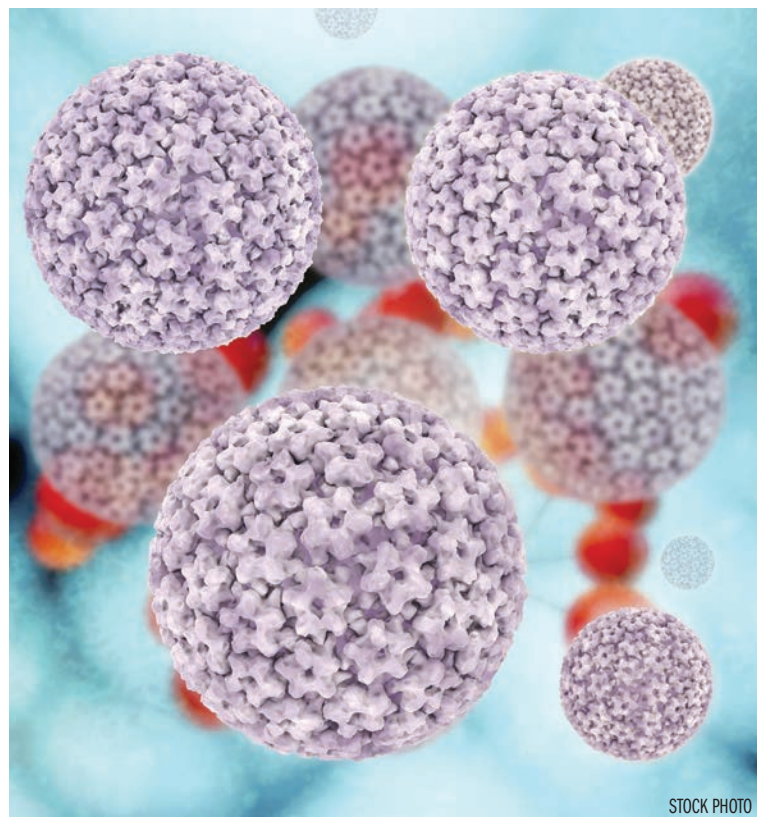
“The high-risk types are not typically associated with the development of warts that people notice right away, and they come up as cervical abnormalities in pap smears later on,” Ranjeva said. “But [types six and 11] are not known to cause cancer, and that's the major clinical distinction between the high-risk and low-risk types.”

Besides genital warts, Lee said women may experience other no-

ticeable symptoms, including pain, abnormal discharge and fevers. However, some symptoms are never present even though the person may have contracted HPV, which is why it is important for women to be screened regularly, Lee said.

“HPV is a very prevalent sexually transmitted disease, so anybody who ever had sex once is at risk for developing HPV,” Lee said. “Gardasil 9 is a vaccine that could stop a significant amount of women from developing cervical cancer, anal cancer and head and neck cancers.”

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NOVICE

SOUS CHEF

GURU

Lemon Pound Cake

INGREDIENTS

1 pound unsalted butter, room temperature

1 cup sugar

3 eggs

1/3 cup lemon zest

3 cups flour

1/2 teaspoon baking soda

3/4 cup lemon juice

1 cup buttermilk

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350 F.

2. Grease two 1.5 x 4.5 x 2.5-inch pans with butter.

3. Mix wet and dry ingredients separately before combining.

4. Bake cake for one hour.



Nohemi Rosales THE CHRONICLE

JESSICA SCOTT

Online Content Producer

POUND CAKE IS good, but lemon pound cake is even better. When I was young, I remember my mom would bring home the most delicious tasting lemon pound cake. It was fluffy, moist and had that sweet-but-tart taste to it.

After eating lemon pound cake, I never wanted plain pound cake again, so when I bake, I bake the cake I enjoyed most growing up.

The recipe is quick and easy, but make sure you have a high-powered mixer. Once you have your mix-

er, grab two bowls to mix the wet and dry ingredients. The wet bowl should consist of the lemon juice, buttermilk and vanilla extract, and the dry bowl should consist of the sugar, flour and butter.

Preheat the oven to 350 F. Mix the dry bowl ingredients on medium speed until light and fluffy, then add one egg at a time. Slowly add baking soda and lemon zest as you mix.

Grab your wet bowl and slowly pour the buttermilk, vanilla extract and lemon juice into the mixer. Mix until the batter reaches pancake-level fluffiness.

Grease the bottoms of the pans with butter. Greasing them with both butter and flour is fine, too. Divide the batter and place it in the two separate pans. Once both pans are filled, place them on the top rack in the oven for one hour.

When the hour is up, stick a fork in the top of the cake and pull it out slowly. If the fork comes out clean, the cake is done, but if it comes out with excess batter, keep baking the cake for another five or 10 minutes.

Once the cake is out of the oven, let it sit for 15–20 minutes.

jscott@chroniclemail.com

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Festival celebrates seven years of international movies, music

GINA SCARPINO
Arts & Culture Reporter

FOR DECADES, MUSIC and movies have been a vital part of Chicago’s cultural scene. The Chicago International Movies and Music Festival works to celebrate the two art forms each year through its four-day event. CIMMfest will host its seventh annual showcase April 16–19 on Chicago’s Northwest side in the vibrant and eclectic Logan Square and Wicker Park neighborhoods. CIMMfest showcases films and music that exhibit how the two art forms work together in an integral way. Gary Kuzminski, CIMMfest’s marketing director and an adjunct advertising and public relations professor at Columbia, said the festival is a celebration attempting to find points within music and movies that inspire deep conversations about worldwide topics. “A beautiful part about film is that it expresses the human condition,” Kuzminski said. “The interesting thing is that we all share the same themes across the globe.



Singer/songwriter Todd Snider will be playing a sold-out show at the City Winery, 1200 W. Randolph St., as a part of CIMMfest, which runs April 16-19 in Logan Square and Wicker Park. One story that may be in Cambodia that’s from a whole other culture and time is something we can use to reflect on our situation here. It speaks to our commonalities.” When programming for the festival began last August, organizers did not seek films or bands that fell under a certain theme, Kuzminski said. A theme for the festival is inspired organically each year in the fall when CIMMfest starts receiving submissions, Kuzminski said. “This year, we have five or six films that have African music themes, all from different countries in Sub-Saharan Africa,” Kuzminski said. “[Each film] speaks to specific experiences. We can never really be in charge, themes just emerge.” More than 99 films and bands

will be shown during the four-day festival. One of the films Kuzminski is most excited for is “808: The Movie,” which documents the history of the TR-808 drum machine and how it shaped the music industry. Alex Noyer, the executive producer of “808: The Movie,” said the inspiration for the film came when he realized how the Roland TR-808 drum machine had singlehandedly altered music when it was created in 1980. “The 808 is in everything,” Noyer said. “It gets name dropped by Britney Spears [in her song ‘Break the Ice’] and Kanye West named one of his most successful albums after the 808. This is how big of a cultural influence it is, and for a machine that almost disappeared a few years after its creation, it’s something worth celebrating.” “808: The Movie” was screened at South by Southwest in Austin, Texas, on March 13 and will now be brought to the big screen at CIMMfest. After working on the

» [SEE FESTIVAL, PG. 28](#)

New Andersonville community art space promotes positivity

GINA SCARPINO
Arts & Culture Reporter

TWO ENTHUSIASTIC FORMER art students from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago hope to open a brand new community art space in June. Vignette Vignette is a community art space coming to the Andersonville and Edgewater communities that was founded by Jean Cate and Stephanie Preston can raise the cash. Preston, an Ohio-native and a Fine Art graduate of SAIC, said she was inspired to create the space two years ago. After spending the summer making ceramic sculptures at her mother’s home, she fell in love with the idea of being able to make art all the time. Preston said she felt so passionate about her idea that she wanted to get the Andersonville and Edgewater communities involved, which is when Cate was brought in as her business partner. “[The idea for] Vignette Vignette started as a maker space in a storefront, and it would be artists coming in and people would just get to see and interact with the artists while they’re making [their art],”

Cate said. “Now, it’s turned into a community art space. Anybody [will be able to] come in for a workshop or class.” Cate and Preston have lived in Andersonville for a few years and would like Vignette Vignette to become a place for the community to convene and interact without having to go to a bar or a restaurant, Cate said. “I think [a community art space] is something that I’ve been wanting,” Preston said. “Andersonville doesn’t have a lot of variety. What’s here is wonderful, but we want to give people new options.” There is currently no space secured for the business, but Preston started a Kickstarter campaign for Vignette Vignette at the beginning of March to raise money for materials and a down payment toward a location. Despite not yet having an actual space, the two hope to open the business early this summer, Preston said. “I have an aggressive schedule [for Vignette Vignette] that I’m trying to stick to,” Preston said. “We’d like to sign a lease and be in a place by May 1 so that [we] can open June 1. We have a schedule

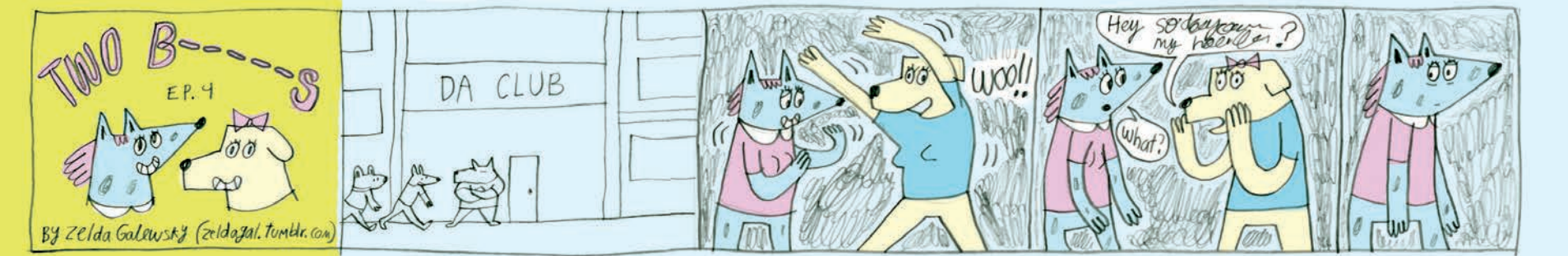
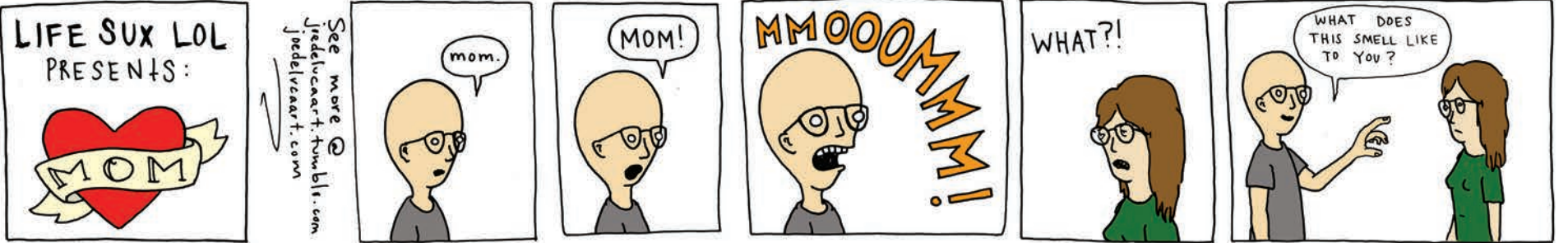
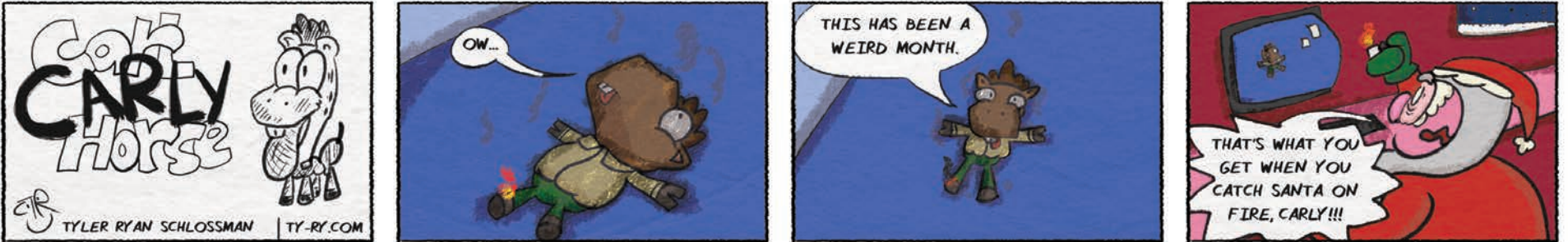
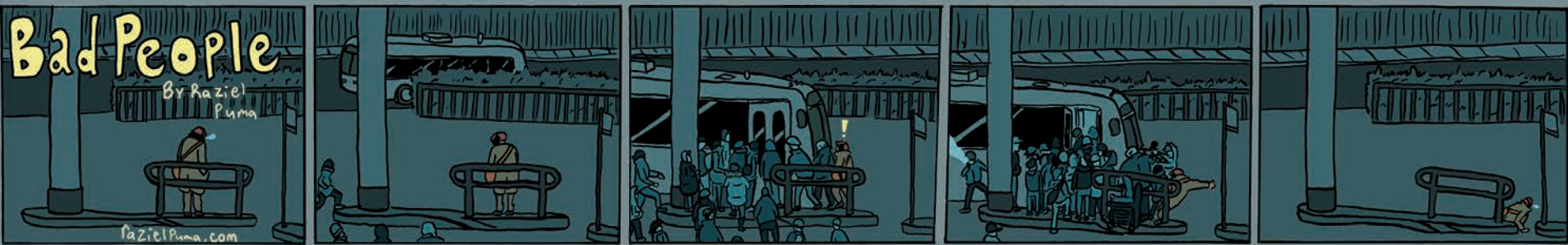


Stephanie Preston and Jean Cate hope to open Vignette Vignette, a community art space coming to the Andersonville and Edgewater neighborhoods, in June. When the space opens, Preston and Cate, along with other local artists, will lead monthlong and one-night workshops and summer camps for children. classes, she said in an email. “Teaching kids keeps me on my toes and generally makes me happy,” Gava said in the email. “I’m also very excited to support my friends and their business and spend time with other artists, not to mention having a space to make my own work.” Each person Preston and Cate chose to join the Vignette Vignette team is exceptional and emblematic of the ideals they are hoping to encourage in the shop, Preston said. “We’re interested in this sense of community, helpfulness and kindness,” Preston said. “Everything we do, it’s about having a positive attitude and making a positive impact on every life we touch in the studio.” Preston and Cate said they agree there is no similar venue to Vignette Vignette in Andersonville or Edgewater. They also said they want to help customers develop a positive attitude toward art and give them a space to create art that they are proud of in the neighborhoods.

» [SEE VIGNETTE, PG. 28](#)

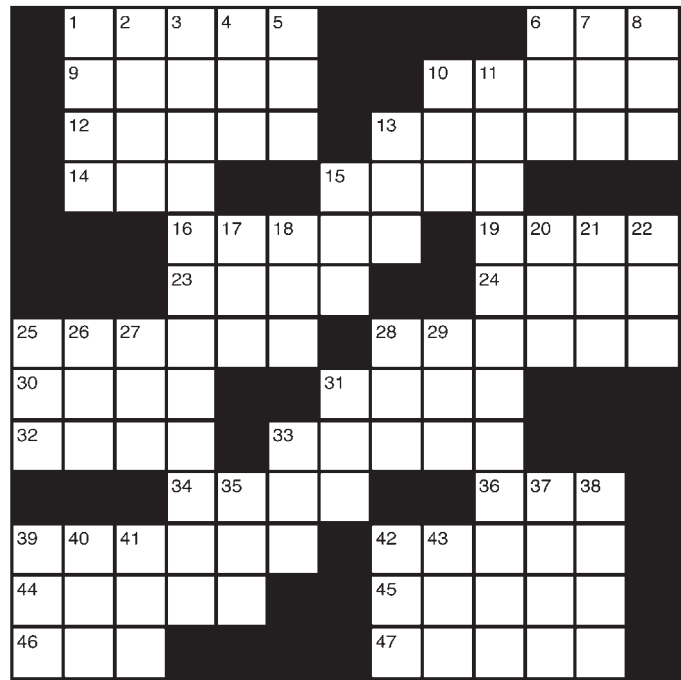
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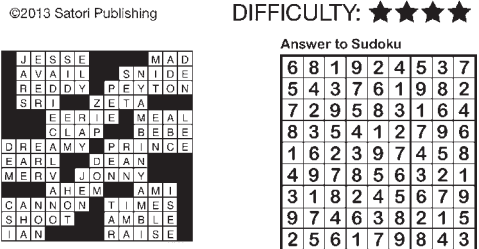
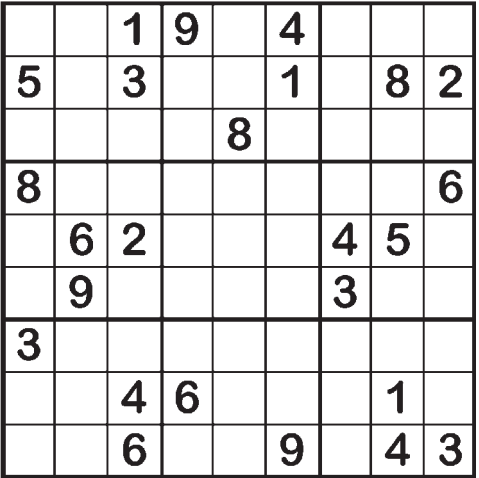
by Jacqueline E. Mathews



- ACROSS**
- 1 __ Spencer of "Chicago Fire"
 - 6 __ "About You"
 - 9 To no __; fruitlessly
 - 10 __ remark; indirect insult
 - 12 Singer Helen __
 - 13 __ "Place"; primetime soap opera of the 1960s
 - 14 __ Lanka
 - 15 Actress Catherine __-Jones
 - 16 __, "Indiana"; short-lived Omri Katz drama series
 - 19 Breakfast, lunch or dinner
 - 23 Applaud
 - 24 __ Neuwirth; Lilith's portrayer
 - 25 Like a teen's heartthrob
 - 28 "The Fresh __ of Bel-Air"
 - 30 "My Name Is __"
 - 31 Martin or Cain
 - 32 "Jeopardy!" creator Griffin
 - 33 Actor __ Lee Miller
 - 34 Throat-clearer's utterance
 - 36 "Am I right or __ right?"
 - 39 William Conrad detective series
 - 42 "Good __"; Esther Rolle sitcom
 - 44 "Just __ Me"
 - 45 Walk leisurely
 - 46 Actor McKellen
 - 47 __ "Your Voice"; Hilary Duff film
- DOWN**
- 1 Glass containers
 - 2 "Unhappily __ After"
 - 3 Actress on "Mom"
 - 4 Comic actor __ Caesar
 - 5 Tarzan portrayer Ron __
 - 6 Cambridge inst.
 - 7 "Much __ About Nothing"
 - 8 Group of cub scouts
 - 10 "The TV __"; movie for David Duchovny & Sigourney Weaver
 - 11 Samuel's portrayer on "Mike & Molly"
 - 13 __-Wee's Big Adventure"; Paul Reubens movie
 - 15 __ code; part of an address
 - 17 "A Nightmare on __ Street"
 - 18 Frank and Marie Barone's younger son
 - 20 Suffix for eight or velvet
 - 21 __ World News Tonight with David Muir
 - 22 Bruce or Brandon
 - 25 Carter or Clinton: abbr.
 - 26 "Norma __"; Sally Field movie
 - 27 Goof
 - 28 Writing instrument
 - 29 Galloped
 - 31 Actor DeLuise
 - 33 Bill's wife on "The Little Couple"
 - 35 __ in Cleveland"
 - 37 Diner where Alice worked
 - 38 __-You.Com"; Beau Bridges movie
 - 39 Series for Eric Szmanda
 - 40 Cry of discovery
 - 41 Prefix for profit or fat
 - 42 Street paver's goo
 - 43 __ Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!"

Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.



'Free At First' celebrates 50 years of AACM's musical freedom

BAXTER BARROWCLIFF

Arts & Culture Editor

CREATIVITY AND MUSIC have long been associated with Chicago, a city that has produced musicians and organizations such as the half-century-old Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians, which has helped raise artists for years.

The Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians is celebrating its 50th anniversary with the exhibit "Free At First: The Audacious Journey of the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians" at the DuSable Museum of African American History, 740 E. 56th Pl.

Carol Adams and Janis Lane-Ewart, the wife of AACM member Douglas Ewart, co-curated the exhibit to honor 50 years of the Chicago-based association being an active influence in the music world, particularly in Chicago.

Lane-Ewart said Adams approached her in July 2014 and invited her to co-curate the exhibition. The two have an interest in sociology and the impact of a person's life has on his or her approach to music, Lane-Ewart said.

"We talk a lot about the aspects of everyday life that were present and made it possible for a group of individuals who had not had relationships with each other ... to be in a circumstance where they recognize that they were not having oppor-



Courtesy JANIS LANE-EWART

The Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians was established in 1965 to provide a place for Chicago musicians to break the traditional norms of modern music and allow them to compose the music they wanted.

tunities to present their creative expression in public places because there was not an atmosphere conducive to that kind of music," Lane-Ewart said.

AACM provides a forum to play new and original music in Chicago, something that was lacking when the group was founded 50 years ago. Adams said this new ability of playing outside of traditional norms

and structures was an influence on the musicians and inspired the name of the exhibition.

"That's why we called the exhibit 'Free At First,'" Adams said. "It's sort of a play on how in the African-American Civil Rights lexicon you hear 'Free at last, free at last, thank God almighty we're free at last.' We think they brought to the music a certain freedom from

the very outset—they would not be bound by tradition, they would be experimental."

Muhal Richard Abrams is a co-founder of the AACM and said the organization was started to allow musicians the freedom to break away from tradition and to play music without any form of restriction.

"When you listen to it, you can describe what you think it is, [and]

that's fair, you're a listener," Abrams said. "We're playing music. We have no description beyond that."

Khari B., a spoken word artist and the current chairman of AACM, said Chicago was the perfect place for an organization such as the AACM to take shape and still thrive today.

» [SEE AACM, PG. 28](#)

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Unnatural Selection

Urban life may be forcing the hand of evolution—in real time

Written by **MAX GREEN**

Designed by **CASSIDY JOHNSON**

If you'd asked Walter Marcisz 10 years ago where the sweet spots for monk parakeet sightings in Chicago were, he would have rattled off a long list. As former president of the Chicago Ornithological Society and a lifelong resident, he would know.

He would have said to set up shop in Hyde Park or Jackson Park, or to camp out in a number of places on the South Side where the monk parakeet population began to explode at the turn of the millennium before fading in recent years.

Marcisz has seen the monk parakeet population fluctuate in number since the late 1970s. The 100th Street exit on the Chicago Skyway, a toll road stretching from Indiana into Chicago, is one of the last holdouts of the monk parakeet. He estimates there are no more than a couple dozen nests left.

"Nowadays, their main stronghold is [there]," Marcisz said. "They build their nests at about 100th Street. It's basically an area between Ave. L and Ave. M."

Whether it is the wild coyotes that are beginning to claim territory in downtown Chicago or the evolution of the indoor biome, city life is spilling over into the natural world and molding it in the process.

A decade ago, areas with larger concentrations of monk nests—such as the village of Burnham—could have claimed nearly 40 nests on their own. If you wanted to see the big stick nests the parakeets built, you would have to look no further than the tops of utility poles, which, for the birds, were reminiscent of the trees in which they would normally nest but provided added protection because of their height—at least before the utility companies began to catch on, Marcisz said.

"The minute a parakeet builds a nest on a util-

ity structure or cell tower, they pretty typically take them down right away," Marcisz said. "They're kind of at war with the utility companies."

A byproduct of the pet trade, monk parakeets are technically an invasive species in parts of the U.S. The bright, emerald- and lime-green birds are about the size of blue jays and native to South America, but they can withstand the temperature extremes of the Midwest. This clash between monk parakeets and the infrastructure of Chicago is just one example of how the adaptive events taking place at the junction of urban life and the natural world actually force the hand of evolution right before our very eyes.

In her February 2015 paper published in the journal *Trends in Ecology & Evolution*, Marina Alberti, a professor in urban design and planning and director of the Urban Ecology Research lab at the University of Washington, said one of the great challenges for managing ecology in the future will be understanding the role we play in driving changes in evolutionary dynamics.

"We know that evolution is happening, and we have increasing evidence that it's happening very rapidly," Alberti said. "The idea that evolution affects ecosystems is not new, but until very recently scientists have assumed that the changes in those feedback loops were not occurring on a contemporary timescale. Now we have initial evidence that this is happening."

As people build a growing web of cities across the globe, the processes that take place in the surrounding ecosystems change, as well as the structure of those habitats. These shifts occur because, in cities, people selectively determine which species can and cannot coexist. That is what's happening to the monk parakeet. The result: Evolutionarily adaptive changes in the behavior and appearance of plants and animals that could go beyond genetic makeup. For example, research has shown that certain rodents have shrunk over time in accordance with human population density.

"We have specifically reduced native vegetation, we fragment nature and vegetation, we change biotic interactions," Alberti said. "We change the temperature, we produce a number of novel disturbances such as pollutants, noise and light. All of those are changes in the habitat and whichever species are more adaptable to them, those are the

ones that we selectively prefer."

In a November 2011 paper published online in the journal *Urban Environments*, researchers looked at changes in the northern Illinois monk parakeet population between 1970 and 2010. Their numbers curiously became distorted over the course of the 40 years.

"At first, people were reporting a nest or two, but the nests did not persist from year to year," said Stephen Pruett-Jones, an associate professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolution at the University of Chicago and lead author of the 2011 paper. "In the early 1970s, a small colony settled along Lake Shore Drive, around 53rd Street. That was a population that persisted. In other words, the population kind of blinked in and out until this colony got started, and that was the colony that really established a solid breeding population in Hyde Park."

According to Pruett-Jones, the population began to expand throughout the 1980s and 1990s, growing exponentially in the Chicago region before the original group, holed up in its Hyde Park fortifications, took a nose dive. Where hundreds of the feral birds once flitted from tree to tree, scavenging for sticks to shore up their hardy nests, there are now thought to be less than 20.

"At the same time the birds in Hyde Park were declining in numbers, the number of locations they were nesting in and the numbers in the greater Chicago region appeared to still be increasing," Pruett-Jones said. "This is going to sound confusing, but we ourselves are a bit confused."

The researchers found a skew in population on a national level as well. At the same time that the number of monk parakeets tallied in surveys fell, the number of places the birds were seen may have actually been rising, meaning fewer parakeets were clustered in places where they were likely to be seen and counted. But birders and scientists alike are at a loss as to why the parakeets, far from their natural habitat, would have clustered in the city only to mysteriously disperse, if that is in fact what has happened. The birds are either dying off or spreading out.

"If the decline is real, then nobody has any idea as to why they're going down in numbers," Pruett-Jones said. "It could be a disease or it could be something else. We just have no idea."

One factor that influences the size, distribution and success of animal populations is the variety and types of plants that make up their habitats.

"For animals, plants are the habitat, that's what they live in, what they eat, that's where they build their nests or their homes," said Emily Minor, associate professor of biological sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago. "In [Chicago's] residential neighborhoods, people are dictating most of the plants ... people are deciding what to put in their yard. In general, the animals are responding to the plants that people are putting out."

Fig. 4.



YELLOW JACKET
Vespula maculifrons

Fig. 1.



MONK PARAKEET
Myiopsitta monachus

Fig. 2.



EUROPEAN DANDELION
Taraxacum officinale L.

Minor, who co-authored the 2011 Urban Environments paper and has done additional work on the monk parakeet with Pruett-Jones, said her lab has found a positive relationship between varieties of flowers and bees. For example, the more varied the flora, the more bees abound. The same goes for birds.

What people plant in their yards is a more significant determinant for the size of nearby bird populations than whatever forest preserves or parks may be close by. Even the prevalence of house cats can wreak havoc on the success of winged creatures in Chicago's neighborhoods.

When analyzing exhaustive lists of parakeet sightings compiled by citizen scientists, Minor and her postdoctoral researcher Amélie Davis found that, in the southern half of the U.S., climate and vegetation seemed to be the environmental factors the monks were responding to as their distribution changed. Conversely, northern populations, like those found in Illinois, are drawn to urban spaces.

"It didn't much matter what the environmental conditions were as long as there were lots of people there," Minor said. "We speculated that that's because they were really reliant on people in these locations, they were relying on the food or perhaps the warmth the cities were creating. They couldn't survive in these northern locations without people nearby."

As mysterious as the case of the monk parakeet might be, there are many others beyond these mossy-colored creatures that are changing in response to our actions, according to Joel Brown, an evolutionary ecologist and professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

"In any kind of urban setting, if a species is able to survive or thrive, it will always first acclimate," Brown said. "The species that live around us in our human-dominated landscapes are going to evolve, but right now the million-dollar question is how fast and how much? The two are probably related."

In Chicago, the European dandelion was not always capable of springing up from the soil and flowering in less than a week, Brown says. But regular lawn mowing coaxed the plant into keeping its leaves much lower to the ground to avoid being clipped, speeding up the rate at which it produces spores. Even the pests that buzz around our heads while we mow the lawn are changing—pesticide resistance in summertime stinging insects like yellow jackets is an evolutionary adaptation that is commonly seen nowadays.

In the early 1990s, Brown and his colleagues set up "Project Squirrel" in order to monitor changes in the gray and fox squirrel population in the Chicagoland area, zip code by zip code, neighborhood by neighborhood. Running the numbers of the respective urbanized squirrel populations against those made available by preserves such as the Morton Arboretum, Brown and his team have drawn conclusions about how similar species of animals function, both in ideal and adaptive habitats.

"The Morton Arboretum provides a wonderful study area for fox and gray squirrels because they're operating pretty much as they would in the wild," Brown said.

"People don't feed them, and there is a full complement of predators—coyotes, red-tailed hawks and foxes."

Though the two species have different survival strategies, they basically maintain their numbers in much the same way they always have without humans influencing their daily experience. The ratio of fox squirrels to gray ones has essentially remained

static inside the walls of the arboretum. The numbers of their city-dwelling counterparts have not. Since 1992, the Oak Park population of squirrels has flipped, from about 80 percent fox and 20 percent gray then, to 20 percent fox and 80 percent gray now, Brown said.

Fox squirrels tend to live on the margins of their habitats and thrive in the face of danger. They are risk-takers and are better adapted to evading predators. Grays, on the other hand, do better deep in the woods, where there are fewer predators that could easily detect them based on fur color. Brown said this large percentage swap between the two populations likely flipped because of dog leash laws being enacted, which effectively eliminated a large percentage of the squirrels' urban predators.

"Unwittingly, Oak Park has become a much safer place for squirrels and, as a consequence, the grays are outcompeting the foxes," Brown said. "Now the best indicator of where you will find squirrels in Oak Park is where there are the lowest number of registered cats and dogs."

Alberti's paper makes note of shrinking fish sizes as a byproduct of human influence on animal evolution on a short timescale. About 20 years ago, Brown had firsthand experience of this working with a cod fishery off the coast of Massachusetts and Canada. The fishermen began to notice the cod they were catching were much smaller than those originally being netted and recorded by the 13 colonies.

"There were two schools of thought—one is that if you heavily harvest a species, they will simply be smaller because they won't have as much of a chance

human behavior in urban environments is important to the preservation of plants and animals, humans are the ones that will end up suffering or benefiting from implementing the foresight.

"We think on a timescale that is not planetary," Alberti said. "We think on a much shorter timescale as we organize society and make decisions."

Alberti said people often think of eco-evolutionary feedback as being low-risk for long-term human well-being because we think of evolution in the traditional sense—taking place in incremental changes over immense spans of time. Though this has been proved scientifically not to be the case, she remains hopeful that when necessity breeds invention, humans will rally and be able to engage in including the long-term future of the planet in our shorter-term plans. The pyramids and other architectural feats would not have been

built without the capacity to imagine a scope of progress thousands of years long. The same goes for writing and legislating policies that take processes such as deforestation into consideration—being cognizant not only of the impact they will have on future generations but of immediate, less obvious ramifications.

Brown calls this school of thought "evolutionary enlightened management"—making an effort to stay mindful not only of the ecological consequences of trying to preserve a species or ecosystem, but also the evolutionary consequences that every living thing will incur.

"After 20 years of fussing about it, it's a done deal," Brown said. "We know there are behavioral changes, like with the squirrels, and there have been dramatic and demonstrated genetic changes, too. We have these robins that don't migrate anymore, we have these Canada geese that don't migrate anymore, these various species that live in our backyards. The challenge for urban areas is that without having a concerted research program to look at all of it, we're going to end up like the fish."

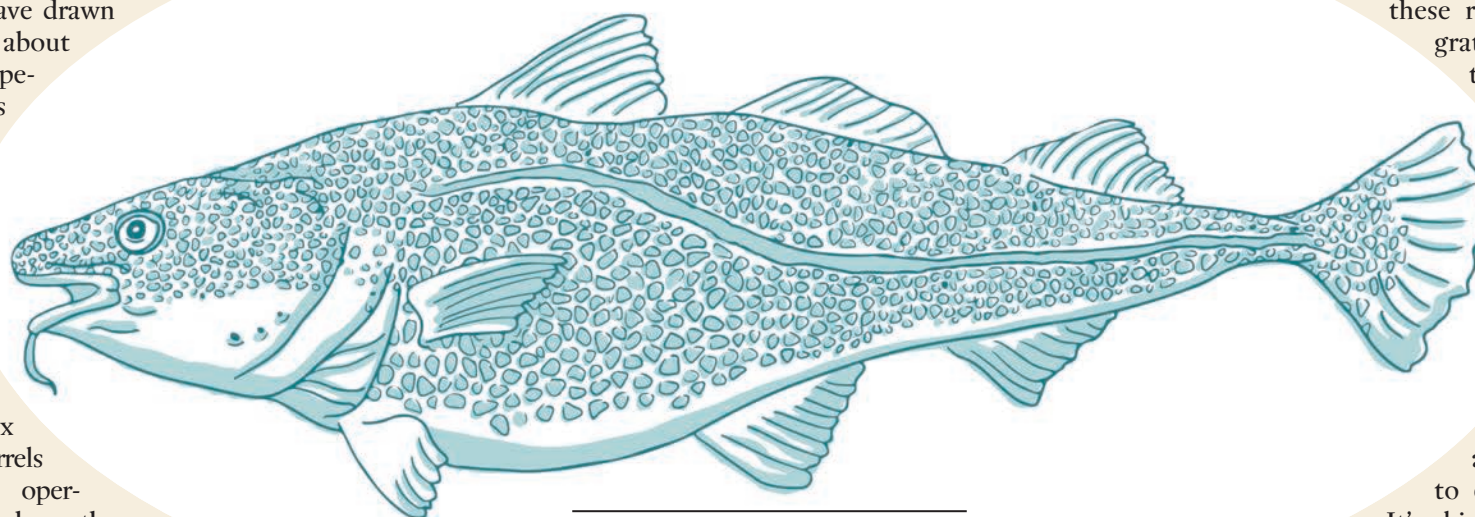
It's kind of like watching your kids grow up too fast. 'Oh my gosh, when did that happen?' In this case we're going to be in for many, many situations that are sometimes humorous and sometimes a bummer where we'll wake up and say, 'We were responsible for the rapid evolution of that species.'"

Fig. 3.



FOX SQUIRREL
Sciurus niger

Fig. 5.



ATLANTIC COD
Gadus morhua

to grow old," Brown said. "The other is that a heavily harvested species will just tend to breed at a smaller size."

Alberti stressed that although fostering and maintaining an awareness of the ecological influence of

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Vinyl toy artistry makes way to United States

SPENCER HALL
Arts & Culture Reporter

WHEN IT COMES to trends, it may seem like the U.S. is at the forefront of the scene, but that is not the case when it comes to vinyl toy art.

Vinyl toys have been one of the most popular art forms in Japan and China throughout the last 50 years, but they have only become popular in the U.S. in the last 15 years, according to vinyl artist Lee Gajda, also known as Leecifer.

Gajda is one of the featured artists in “For The Love of Toys,” the April 10 Galerie F exhibit, 2381 N. Milwaukee Ave., which will feature works from several vinyl artists, including Gajda, JC Rivera, JFury and Rocketboy. Gajda said many of his favorite artists began adopting the art

form in the early 2000s, which showed a new side to their work.

“As the economy sort of changed and we cut back [on] buying big canvases, it was really cool to see some of my favorite artists having 3D representations of their work in the form of vinyl,” Gajda said.

JFury said he first got the inspiration for vinyl toy artistry when he took his children on a vacation to Disneyland a few years ago.

“I stumbled across the Vinyl-mation figures and thought the idea was great,” JFury said. “I loved seeing all these different artists put their stuff on the same platform. I went home after and did some research and found KidRobot and started doing some of these little figures that they produced.”

Vinyl toy artistry was a surprise for many of the artists in the show, such as featured artist Rocketboy, who needed

a new hobby after his professional wrestling career was cut short because of a shoulder injury that forced him to retire.

“I was looking for something to do for a creative outlet and stumbled upon some vinyl toys online and was just enamored by what other artists were doing in the scene,” Rocketboy said. “I got to the point where I wanted to try it out myself.”

Both Rocketboy and JFury said they had no prior experience in the art form when they began. Through the close-knit community of artists, Rocketboy said he has been able to learn new techniques.

“The scene’s very friendly, so everyone’s been really supportive,” Rocketboy said. “If I have a question like, ‘How’d you get that effect?’ They would teach me and I would do my best to make it my own.”

Rivera, who is widely known throughout the city’s art scene for his signature character the Bear Champ, helped curate the upcoming show. Although a large number of Rivera’s pieces are done as customizable, factory-produced vinyl dummies, he said he prefers using resin sculpting because it is a more personalized process as opposed to the mass production of vinyl.

“It’s like the closest thing to vinyl, that if you do it right, it looks just like it,” Rivera said. “People will buy it or even pay more because it’s from you. You start from scratch. You sculpt it, make the mold, make



Courtesy LEECIFER

Vinyl toy artist Leecifer is one of several featured in the April 10 Galerie F art exhibition “For The Love of Toys.” the replicas and paint it yourself. We figured out as artists, if you know how to sculpt, that was the way you can have your own small production of toys.”

Gajda said the recent trend in the U.S. of using resin instead of the vinyl dummies has given many young artists a chance to showcase their own original designs, rather than relying on major vinyl companies to distribute their work.

“What’s nice about resin is that it’s the DIY aesthetic that comes out of the streets and punk music and the do-it-yourself zine culture that allows folks to do it themselves, whereas The Pickle Baby was literally thousands of dollars to have the molds made and have them pulled,” Gajda said. “Resin casting is relatively inexpensive. So, there’s kind of been this explosion.”



Courtesy LEECIFER

Leecifer’s Pickle Baby will be in the vinyl toy exhibit.



Courtesy LEECIFER

The “Bat Bear,” a customized vinyl bear champ toy, is a collaboration between artists JC Rivera and Leecifer.

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Pacino sells out ‘Danny Collins’ to fans his own age

MAX GINKEL
Film Critic

“DANNY COLLINS”—A movie about an aging rock star—has a running joke that the film’s lead character and target audience belong to the same age demographic.

The ‘60s brought a wave of films catering specifically to a younger audience, something that has still not changed. Now, 50 years later, that same generation has caused a shift in Hollywood. Films for older audiences, including works such as “The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel” and “Quartet” frequently feature big-name actors of generation appearing as older characters.

“Danny Collins,” screenwriter Dan Fogelman’s directorial comedy debut, follows a musician on a quest to come to peace with his artistic identity and his estranged son, all prompted by a misplaced letter from John Lennon. Ironically, the titular character, an artist who has sold out his entire career and is attempting to change, is played by Al Pacino (“The Godfather,” “Insomnia”)—a talented actor with a revered career, now selling out by appearing in films like this.

“Danny Collins” is reflective of the shift in Hollywood toward marketing films to aging baby boomers. The movie is not exclusively intended for people 50 or older, but those are the majority of the viewers in the theater.



IMDB

Al Pacino plays washed up ‘70s rockstar Danny Collins in the film of the same name. After receiving a letter from the late John Lennon, Collins tries to redeem himself.

The film may not have knee-slapping hilarity, but it certainly is entertaining. It never takes itself too seriously or drags moments out for longer than necessary, making it a pleasure for the viewer. Although it does get predictable and boring at moments, the film’s biggest sin is being simply unmemorable.

The filmmakers enjoy portraying Collins’ lavish lifestyle: sex, coke,

booze, private jets and sports cars. It is entertaining to explore this world, but it is a world audiences have seen before in any other film about an aging rock star, such as “Get Him To The Greek” and “This Must Be the Place.” The washed up rock star is not new.

Despite cliché characters, “Danny Collins” ends exactly when it needs to—a rarity in contemporary

Hollywood films. The film ends on a hopeful note but also leaves unanswered questions in an intriguing manner, and that ambiguity is appreciated by modern audiences.

Because the film’s plot revolves around John Lennon, the film makes excellent use of its soundtrack by featuring much of Lennon’s solo work. At times it is too obvious, but it is still a strong

element that classic rock lovers can enjoy.

The wildly entertaining Pacino is the glue that holds this film together. With his ridiculous outfits and even more ridiculous Jersey accent, Pacino has fun with his character. The strongest moments in the film were during scenes that allowed Pacino to just be Danny Collins, and the film could have benefitted from more of those bits.

The film also includes great performances from actors such as Christopher Plummer (“A Beautiful Mind”), who plays Collins’ groovy manager. His gravelly voice could put even the most restless hearts to sleep. Annette Bening (“American Beauty”) does solid work as a hotel manager Collins pines for. Collins’ granddaughter Hope, played by Giselle Eisenberg (“Wolf of Wall Street”), is more exciting than most young characters get to be. Jennifer Garner (“Dallas Buyers Club,” “Juno”) plays Collins’ daughter-in-law, and she does so with the same facial expressions she has used for every one of her films. It may be due to her flakiness, but Garner’s character seems completely bland and does absolutely nothing for the plot.

The film offers a refreshing break from the slew of action films clogging theaters. “Danny Collins” may be unmemorable, but it is a painlessly entertaining two hours.

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“Elbow Room” is a new multiplayer game that allows at least 12 people to participate at once. Each player picks a key on the keyboard, and the last one standing wins.

COLIN MCINERNEY
Contributing Writer

“ELBOW ROOM” TAKES a simple concept and rolls with it: Put as many people as possible around one keyboard, have them all press one button each and the last one standing wins. It is easy to jump in and out,

and gamers and non-gamers alike can enjoy it.

At the annual Game Developer’s Conference in San Francisco, California, there was tension between the old and new developers in game culture. The old see games as a rigid software discipline, and the new see games as an art form that every-

one should explore and celebrate. A controversial post surfaced on Reddit in regards to the multitude of dyed hair colors and constant hugging by newer indie game developers in the industry. Despite the toxicity found in the comment thread, many were quick to dismiss it as a sign of resistance in the in-

‘Elbow Room:’ the perfect party game

evitable change in the culture of the video game world.

The new and welcoming culture was represented in a party thrown by Venus Patrol—a website about games as art—and Wild Rumpus, a U.K.-based gaming collective that showcases distinctive games. From these two games emerged the “Everything is Going to be OK” party, where “Elbow Room” and a multitude of other games could be played.

“Elbow Room” is intended for at least 12 players gathered around a regular computer keyboard. There can be as many players as there are keys on the keyboard if they can all fit around it, so be prepared to get cozy while playing. When all players are ready, a circle representing their key rotates around a central circle with a radar line sweeping over each key. Players must press their button or take a point of damage when the line passes over their keys. Three strikes and you’re out. As players get knocked out, the line moves faster and faster until it is down to a duel between two players.

The game is visually striking because it uses bold colors on darker backgrounds and simple geometry. The result is a refreshingly minimalist look that does not fall into the “white with just a little bit of color” category.

The game flourishes in the environment of “Everything is Going to

be OK.” Players were able to jump in and out at a moment’s notice, whether to get a drink, use the restroom or simply step back and observe new players jumping in. As a game, it is very fluid and easy for new players to start. The environment is what makes the game fun. It’s very simple but the idea of facing 12 other people is more than novel. It is almost unheard of for most daily gamers, especially in the context of local multiplayer.

As an installation, the game is even better. Because of its one-button focus, the game requires no explanation. It requires only a keyboard, so no special hardware needs to be installed or hauled around. It can theoretically be put on someone’s laptop and left on a table only to attract curious people.

Overall, “Elbow Room” is a game everyone should play. It represents a wonderful shift in gaming culture and is easy enough for anyone to begin immediately, yet challenging enough to be interesting for a long time, even with just one button. Save this game for your big parties, though—you will not get as much enjoyment out of it playing against a friend or two. “Elbow Room” is currently in pre-release. The release date has not been set, as of press time.

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AUDIOFILE

The Weeks bring Mississippi edge to Nashville music scene

SPENCER HALL
Arts & Culture Reporter

THROUGHOUT MUSIC HISTORY, several bands have been labeled as “the next” this or that. For Mississippi rockers The Weeks, comparisons to rock band Kings of Leon have always run rampant. From its Southern drawl to its family aspect, it is not the most far-fetched comparison. Rather than shying away from them, The Weeks embraced the comparisons with pride.

“I don’t mind when people say it,” said lead singer Cyle Barnes. “Mostly with the Southern drawl that we share, it’s hard not to make the comparison, but we never really worried about it too much.”

Made up of lead singer Barnes, his twin brother and drummer Cain Barnes, guitarist Samuel Williams, bassist Damien Bone and organ player Admiral Collier, The Weeks is a Mississippi band that now calls Nashville, Tennessee, its home. After signing with Kings of Leon’s record label Serpents and Snakes Records, the band re-released *Gutter Gaunt Gangster* in 2012 and has become one of Nashville’s rising rock bands. With releases *Dear Bo Jackson* (2013) and the *Buttons* EP (2014), the band has become a darling on Nashville radio and beyond.

The Chronicle spoke with lead singer Cyle Barnes about the band’s roots, the Nashville music scene and what is next for the band.

THE CHRONICLE: Are your Mississippi roots reflected in your music?

CYLE BARNES: I always say if the music doesn’t sound super Southern, I’d like to believe the feel is there. [Southerners are] wonderful people and have good stories, so we push through with that a little bit.



Courtesy CHRIS SUNDAY

The Weeks have become one of Music City’s rising rock bands since moving to Nashville five years ago after signing to Kings of Leon’s label Serpents and Snakes Records.

Why did you move to Nashville?

We were at Delta State University at the time. My brother and I were both art majors. It was either we’d stay or go out and try to do this full time. It was kind of like names in a hat at first. We really didn’t know where we wanted to go. We just knew we had to go and try to do something a little different and get moving and get motivated about it. We ended up touring through the cities we were thinking about moving to, and Nashville was the one. It’s close to home, the temperature’s great and it’s just a big small city, so we moved here and it was great. There are more musicians here than we could ever possibly think about meeting.

What do you think about the growing rock scene in Nashville?

It’s amazing. We’ve been here for almost five years now. When we were first coming here, we were worried

because we were transplants. We had no idea what they would think or if we were going to be accepted. At the time, there was a little bit of buzz about Nashville, but not at all like it is now. But we ended up getting here, and it was so much more than just country music. If you wanted to see a different [genre]—punk, whatever—every single night, you can. So we got here and realized there was no competition. We’re all doing the same thing—everyone’s touring, everyone’s playing as much as they can. It was nice to get here and realize that coming from somewhere else, we were welcomed with open arms. We’re all in the same fight together.

You are signed with Kings of Leon’s label, Serpents and Snakes Records. What has that experience been like?

We have a special situation with that because their label is owned by a band, so they know what touring is like. It doesn’t feel super business

all the time. There’s a family aspect to it. We like to make it as personal as possible. We want to know that who we’re working with are people we like and they enjoy us and not just what we’re doing. They actually enjoy us as people. It’s just one big family.

You have toured with Kings of Leon in the past. What is your relationship like with the band?

They’re all really sweet guys. Every time we get together, it ends up being a good time. It’s strange because, when we do hang out with them, it’s easy to forget they’re in the band that they’re in. But they’re all really nice guys and their families are super sweet also.

Do you and your twin brother Cain get along or is there ever tension?

My brother and myself are twins who have been together nonstop, so we don’t have beefs ever really. We

try to keep it pretty nice. We do get the twin vibe, so we could read each other’s minds. Since I was young, we’ve always been in bands together, so I’ve always had him as a drummer. I don’t know what it’d be like to not have him as a drummer.

You guys are currently touring and playing shows throughout the South. How is it so far?

It’s been wild. We tour constantly—we’re on the road more than we’re home. We love touring. That’s why we do it constantly. We like live shows and getting out there and meeting new people and all the different bands we get to meet. When we get home for a little while, we try to write and keep busy because we get antsy and want to get back out there and get back on the road. But every chance we get—there’s just nothing like getting to go to a fun, strange place you’ve never been before and being loud there for a night.

Your last album, *Dear Bo Jackson*, was distinct from previous records you’ve released. Do you see a natural evolution in the band?

Yeah, I definitely think so. There’s a gradual change as we’ve gotten a little older. It’s interesting to see how it turns. [On *Dear Bo Jackson*] we had a lot of time to get some friends that we invited with horns and things like that just because it was the first time we really got to experiment with all of that. As far as the writing goes, it’s definitely the same sort of flow, same sort of style, but maybe more of just the band and seeing how it sounds more stripped down. I think it’ll be a nice middle ground between the two.

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STAFF PLAYLIST

“Sad Songs”



Gina Scarpino, Arts & Culture Reporter
THE BOY WHO BLOCKED HIS OWN SHOT Brand New
I'M SORRY The Maine
MANY OF HORROR Buffy Clyro
GUNS FOR HANDS Twenty One Pilots
ME The 1975



Katherine Davis, Associate Editor
LAST KISS Taylor Swift
BLOOD ON THE LEAVES Kanye West
THROW IT ALL AWAY Brandi Carlile
TIL I GET OVER YOU Michelle Branch
WITHOUT YOU Lana Del Rey



Nancy Cooper, Sports & Health Reporter
NOVEMBER RAIN Guns n Roses
JORDAN Rivals
HEY HO The Lumineers
GIRL FROM THE NORTH COUNTRY Johnny Cash and Bob Dylan
HEADLIGHTS Eminem & Nate Ruess



Lauren Kostiuk, Campus Reporter
WONDERWALL Oasis
COMEBACK STORY Kings of Leon
COLLIDE Howie Day
VIENNA Billy Joel
A WORLD ALONE Lorde



Baxter Barrowcliff, Arts & Culture Editor
HURT Nine Inch Nails
TWILIGHT Elliott Smith
HOW TO DISAPPEAR COMPLETELY Radiohead
LONG GONE LONESOME BLUES Hank Williams Sr.
PICTURES OF YOU The Cure



Abby Seitz, Sports & Health Reporter
WAKE The Antlers
THINKING ABOUT YOU Radiohead
BIRD STEALING BREAD Iron & Wine
TERRIBLE LOVE The National
TINY VESSELS Death Cab for Cutie

Sound OFF

Jay Z's new streaming service to reflect 'Empire State of Mind'

AS MORE AND more major music artists have begun to turn their backs on streaming services such as Pandora and Spotify, Jay Z has developed a plan to get music artists back in control of their earnings.

Before the March 11 announcement came that Jay Z's \$56.2 million bid for the Swedish streaming company Aspiro had been accepted, according to a same-day Billboard report, he held a mysterious meeting with some of the top names in the industry during Grammy week back in the end of February.

The meeting, which Beyonce, Kanye West, Madonna, Coldplay's Chris Martin, Nicki Minaj, Daft Punk and other unidentified players attended, was meant to serve as a giant brainstorming session to help Jay Z figure out how he could take back the reins of the industry, according to a report released March 19 by Forbes.

According to the Forbes report, Jay Z's reason for inviting some of the industry's most successful performers had to do with him wanting to use his newly acquired streaming company to create something similar to the United Artists film studio founded in 1919. Created by film stars Charlie Chaplin, Mary Pickford, Douglas

Fairbanks and D.W. Griffith, UA's business model was designed to allow the stars more financial and artistic control of the production and distribution of their films. And according to History.com, the model worked for the better part of a century until personal disputes among the stars in charge led to different leadership and a decrease in releases.

It may seem audacious for anyone to choose to go up against Dr. Dre and Apple Beats Music, but if anyone can handle such a task, it would be Jay Z. There are some aspects to the Aspiro streaming service he may want to rethink, though, such as its high-end price of \$19.95 per month.

What wealthy music artists may not understand is that many Spotify users will take to the service to listen to an album and decide if they like it before eventually going on to purchase it. And yes, there are some broke college students who may thoroughly enjoy an album and still choose not to buy it, either out of financial inability or simply because streaming it through Spotify is convenient and cheap enough. They use the service for free and deal with the obnoxious commercials or pay a \$9.99 monthly fee for uninterrupted streaming.


KYRA SENESE MANAGING EDITOR



Many fans were disappointed when pop star Taylor Swift decided not to release her latest album, *1989*, on Spotify, but fellow artists supported her choice. The last couple of decades have certainly stolen significant profits from deserving artists, with the Limewire generation downloading mass amounts of quality, mainstream music “for free” and now Spotify and Pandora giving listeners a legal way to listen to their favorite tunes without paying for every song.

It is reasonable for Jay Z and his pals to seek proper compensation for their artistic work, and maybe banding together will empower them to create a streaming service that better suits artists and fans.

ksenese@chroniclemail.com



Thursday, April 2

FROM INDIAN LAKES

Beat Kitchen
2100 W. Belmont Ave.
8:30 p.m.
\$12.50-15, 17+

Monday, March 30

BIG DATA

Lincoln Hall
2424 N. Lincoln Ave.
7 p.m.
\$16-20, 18+

Friday, April 3

THE LAST BISON

Subterranean
2011 W. North Ave.
8:30 p.m.
\$12-14, 17+

Wednesday, April 1

AMEN DUNES

Schubas Tavern
1359 N. Southport Ave.
9 p.m.
\$12-14, 21+

Saturday, April 4

THE MOWGLI'S

Metro
3730 N. Clark St.
6:45 p.m.
\$17-19

Wednesday, April 1

CLEAN BANDIT

Metro
3730 N. Clark St.
8 p.m.
\$20, 18+

Saturday, April 4

PITY SEX

Subterranean
2011 W. North Ave.
6:30 p.m.
\$12-14

Thursday, April 2

FACE TO FACE

Bottom Lounge
1375 W. Lake St.
7:30 p.m.
\$25

Saturday, April 4

THE TING TINGS

Thalia Hall
1807 S. Allport St.
8 p.m.
\$22-25

CHECK ME OUT



RUQYYAH KARIM
senior fashion studies major

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SPRING FLOWER?
“Lilacs. I don’t know if they bloom in spring.”



JACK GRUSZCZYNSKI
senior art + design major

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SPRING FLOWER?
“Peonies.”



MENG XUE
junior fashion studies major

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SPRING FLOWER?
“Lavender.”



LUCAS BALLESTER
senior art + design major

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SPRING FLOWER?
“Nardo.”



» FESTIVAL

Continued from PG. 17

screened at different festivals stirs up all kinds of emotions, Noyer said.

"It's a weird experience [seeing the film screenings] because when you see it out there, it's like seeing

your child in their first school play," Noyer said. "It's really exciting and you kind of have every emotion going through your head."

Noyer said he hopes CIMMfest's audience has an immersive experience while watching the film.

"Our film is a legacy piece, it's a love letter to the 808," Noyer said. "We want to inspire people to continue this cultural movement of the 808."

gscarpino@chroniclemail.com



Courtesy THE SILVERMAN GROUP

"Don't Think I've Forgotten: Cambodia's Lost Rock and Roll," directed by John Pirozzi, will be shown April 16 at the Logan Theatre, 2646 N. Milwaukee Ave., at 7:15 p.m.

» VIGNETTE

Continued from PG. 17

"People get so much anxiety about putting down the wrong mark that they don't get anywhere with making art," Preston said. "We're going to take that fear away from [making art]."

Gava said she used to live in Andersonville and thinks Vignette Vignette will strengthen the positive vibe the neighborhood radiates.

Both Preston and Cate hope to promote positivity through Vignette Vignette and want customers to feel confident in their work when they walk out of the studio, Cate said.

"We're going to be a positive, safe place to come and make what's important to you," Cate said. "It's a place to let go, goof around and just have a good time while making art they are proud of."

gscarpino@chroniclemail.com

» AACM

Continued from PG. 19

"It is very [fitting] in that it started and has continued to thrive in Chicago," Khari B. said. "Chicago—while the [music industry] moved out of Chicago quite a few decades ago—is nurturing of the arts. The type of artists that Chicago produces are those who influence the rest of the world. There is a great spirit here that produces great art."

Lane-Ewart said another reason the organization has been successful for 50 years is due to the emphasis the AACM puts on educating the city's communities about music and the arts, particularly with young people.

"There was always the emphasis on training young people to embrace their creativity and encourage them to be original," Lane-Ewart said. "They endeavored to teach people of any age and cultural background how to play an instrument. Once you know the basics, then what do you want to do with that? Where

do you want to take that? It's based on how you want to express yourself, and that's allowed the next generations of the [AACM] to carry it forward."

Khari B. said he grew up in the AACM. His father, Mwata Bowden, who is a member of the organization, brought him to concerts and events, which is where he first met Lane-Ewart, who once served as AACM's executive director.

Khari B. said having Lane-Ewart and Adams behind the exhibit is fitting because of their long involvement with AACM.

"Janis Lane-Ewart and [Carol Adams] put the exhibit together and did a phenomenal job at making that happen," Khari B. said. "Them having the connections to the organization from some of the earliest years gave it the personal touch that it has, and it made a huge difference that they put it together."

The AACM "Free at First" exhibit runs through Sept. 8, 2015.

bbarrowcliff@chroniclemail.com

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TOP 5



**NOT SAFE
FOR WORK**
YOUR ONLINE TIME
WASTERS OF THE WEEK



BLOG: "Betabrand"

Ever had a million-dollar idea for a hip new piece of fashion? Ever got around to creating a prototype for it? Ever raised money to turn that prototype into the clothing article of your dreams? Beta-brand is a collection of fundraising efforts for clothing prototypes worldwide. It's like Kickstarter for inventively creative clothes that could become reality, and some of them have been successful enough to start selling on the site. Paisley T-bone steak shirts are just one of the many wacky products available online.

Check it out at: www.betabrand.com



VIDEO: "10 Scarily Plausible TV Show Theories!"

In a video published to YouTube March 14, Matthew Santoro gives dark, believable twists to childhood TV favorites, such as Scooby-Doo taking place after an economic depression, the Rugrat toddlers as a figment of Angelica's imagination and Spongebob and friends as radioactive mutants. Santoro also presents theories about pairs of shows being connected, such as the Powerpuff Girls leading to Samurai Jack.

Check it out at: www.youtube.com/user/MatthewSantoro

Jessica Scott Online Content Producer

REASONS WHY I LOVE SPORTS

Competition: I love competing. I love looking into my opponents' eyes and letting them know, "It's on!" It's the anticipation and the actual moment when it is time to make a move that will either make me the winner or the loser. Even though I consider others the opponent, the real competition is between me, myself and I. The hardest person to defeat has always been myself, and it always will be.

Fun: My idea of fun is watching, playing, talking or writing about sports. I do not know what it is, but something physiologically changes in my body when I get the opportunity to do anything sports-related. My life would be absolutely boring and meaningless if I could not participate in sports in some way, shape or form. Sports for me are like water to fish—I would die without them.

Exercise: It might be hard to tell now, but I was a top-notch athlete. Playing basketball, softball, volleyball and track in high school kept me in shape. I loved swinging the bat, diving, spiking volleyballs and running the 100-yard dash. All of these sports worked every muscle in my body and I loved it.

Discipline: The reason I think I was able to obtain a bachelor's degree, two master's degrees, a state certification and have the audacity to obtain another bachelor's at 34 years of age is because I am disciplined. Every sport that I played required me to focus, work hard and think wisely. These are the same concepts that I applied to my education and career.

Failure: Some people see failure as a bad thing, but I see failure as a way to succeed. Some of the most devastating failures in my life have been when I failed either my teammates or myself. However, one of the reasons I love sports so much is because in my failures, I was able to see my mistakes quickly, which allowed me to work on them immediately.

Saiyna Bashir Online Content Editor

PHOTOJOURNALISTS

Lynsey Addario: As an award-winning American photojournalist, Addario has been covering human rights issues and conflict since 2000 when she traveled to Afghanistan while it was under Taliban rule. Addario regularly works for the New York Times, National Geographic and Time Magazine. She is the author of "It's What I Do," her memoir of love and war.

James Nachtwey: Nachtwey is an award-winning photojournalist who started his career in 1976. He is a war photographer who has covered many important events in history and has been a photographer for Time Magazine for more than three decades. He is also the founding member of VII, a photo agency that has archived more than 100,000 images and represents 20 world-renowned photojournalists.

Tim Hetherington: He was a British photojournalist, writer and filmmaker who died in 2011 while covering the Libyan civil war. Hetherington covered humanitarian issues and conflict. His documentary "Restrepo" was nominated for an Academy Award in 2010. "Trying to understand my own fascination with conflict and war has become something that's started to focus on what it means to be a man. What is it about war that really draws men?"—Tim Hetherington.

Tyler Hicks: Hicks is a Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist who works for The New York Times. He was awarded a Pulitzer last year for breaking news photography of the massacre at the Westgate Mall in Nairobi, Kenya. Hicks has mostly covered foreign affairs, but he has been more drawn to conflict and war in recent years.

Chris Hondros: Hondros was a Pulitzer Prize-nominated photojournalist who died in 2011 while on assignment in Libya. Hondros had been covering the conflict since the 1990s. There is a nonprofit organization in his memory, The Chris Hondros Fund, which advocates for photo journalists by providing grants to nonprofit institutions.

Nancy Cooper Sports & Health Reporter

REASONS I HAVE A LOVE-HATE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE KARDASHIANS

I love how Scott Disick is "the Lord": Watching Lord Disick is always a good time. You never know what weird gimmick he will be up to or what crazy antics he will carry out around the house. Seeing him and Khloe reporting their first broadcast in a bathtub together last season was just priceless. Anybody who can rock an "LD" eye patch is the bomb.

North West Kardashian is the cutest little fashionista: She is a doll—we can't deny that. North's high-fashion style is simply adorable, and I can't help but follow this little cutie every chance I get. From Givenchy to Alexander Wang, Kim and North's matching outfits are just to die for. North West is definitely a part of the Kardashians that I love.

I'm over Kim saying she is tired of people crediting her fame to her sex tape with ex-boyfriend Ray-J: Let's be real, she wouldn't even be on the map without her infamous tape. She's tired of people viewing her as a sex symbol, yet she constantly posts booty-baring thong photos on social media. Either step up and own who you are or change your style. I definitely hate Kim's contradictory lifestyle.

Kourtney's constant complaining gets old: After nine completed seasons, viewers are still hearing her constant complaining, her continuous eye rolls and her dissatisfaction with everything. It is time to take the stick out, enjoy a glass of wine and shut the bleep up—at least for five minutes.

I love how Bruce Jenner came out to the world to show who he really is: It takes a lot of guts to share your gender transition with the world, and he's been owning it. I love how the family has shown Bruce 100 percent support. He is still part of the Kardashian family in my eyes, and hopefully to Kardashian fans.

FEATURED PHOTO



Lou Foglia THE CHRONICLE

Robert Morris University mens volleyball player Anthony Rosselli shaves his head March 19 inside the RMU State Street Art Gallery, 401 S. State St., to benefit the St. Baldrick's Foundation, which aims to raise money and raise awareness of childhood cancer research.

REVIEWS

☹️ Uhhmm, WTF? 😏 No— just... no. 😐 It's whatever. 😊 I can dig it. 🤪 YAAASS!

—ratings

SCREEN



“Vice” Season 3

“Vice,” HBO’s latest documentary series, has presented intense and relevant episodes that touch on issues of climate change and the militarization of America’s police force. It is exciting to see what the rest of the season has in store. — **K. Hetterscheidt**

☹️ ☹️ 😐 😊 🤪



“Secrets” by Tiësto & KSHMR feat. Vassy

“Secrets” comes to life in this music video from Spinnin’ Records. With strong examples of color and cinematic flair, this tech-themed video invites viewers into the fast-paced world of digital gaming. — **L. Foglia**

☹️ ☹️ 😐 😊 🤪



“Run All Night”

Liam Neeson stars in the new action film “Run All Night.” Liam and the rest of the cast give the audience an entertaining movie. For a one-time-watch film, you will walk away saying that “it was a pretty good movie, but it’s not worth buying.” — **K. Wenzel**

☹️ ☹️ 😐 😊 🤪

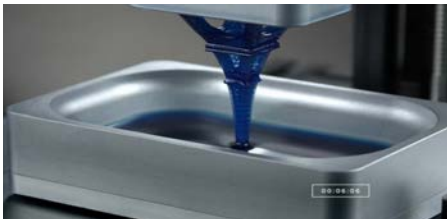


“Mujer Soy” by Las Cafeteras

Most Las Cafeteras music videos usually tell a specific story. This video tells the story of Maryann Aguirre’s daily life in East Los Angeles and shows her challenges as a woman of color and a single mother. It’s a perfect tribute to Women’s History Month. — **N. Rosales**

☹️ ☹️ 😐 😊 🤪

APPS & TECH



Carbon3D

Carbon3D, a new 3D printer manufacturer, has blown its competition away with its technique and speed which allows it to extract intricate models from a pool of chemicals using light and oxygen. Its process cuts down printing time immensely. — **C. King**

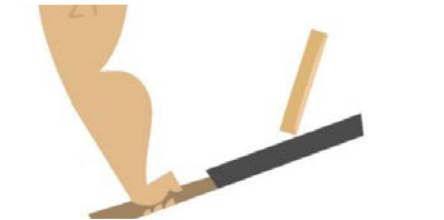
☹️ ☹️ 😐 😊 🤪



Adobe Color CC app

This app creates custom color palettes from the world around you. You can change the type of color scheme depending on your interest and even send them to the Adobe Suite programs to use in your art. If you’re a color nerd like me, you will use it constantly. — **A. Cannon**

☹️ ☹️ 😐 😊 🤪



Pancake app

The game’s concept is simple: flip the pancake as many times as you can. It’s not as easy as it sounds, which is why people find the game so addicting, though. If you need something to frustratingly take up some extra time, play this while waiting for your coffee. — **C. Johnson**

☹️ ☹️ 😐 😊 🤪



Google Maps app update

Even though I know my way around the city for the most part, there always comes a time when I pull out my handy Google Maps app. With the new update, I can verbally ask the app for directions, which is convenient for when I’m on the way to my destination. — **K. Davis**

☹️ ☹️ 😐 😊 🤪

MUSIC



Strangers to Ourselves by Modest Mouse

On indie-rock band Modest Mouse’s new album, melancholic melodies and thoughtful lyrics are bountiful. This combination may make listeners feel a little nostalgic or reflective, but in a really positive way. — **K. Davis**

☹️ ☹️ 😐 😊 🤪



Run by AWOLNATION

Although I do not usually listen to AWOLNATION, I decided to give their latest album a chance, and I am glad I did. With techno-infused beats and striking lyrics, the album is a collection of songs that anyone could get into. As a result, I am switching up my Spotify playlist. — **K. Davis**

☹️ ☹️ 😐 😊 🤪



The Firewatcher's Daughter by Brandi Carlile

I was a huge fan of Carlile in her early days. Songs like “Throw It All Away” were the anthems I listened to while in despair. But her new album sounds so country-folk, and I just cannot get into it. — **K. Davis**

☹️ ☹️ 😐 😊 🤪



To Pimp a Butterfly by Kendrick Lamar

Kendrick Lamar’s newest record is a stand-alone masterpiece. Unapologetically black and strong, he delivers poignant political commentary within a delicate personal narrative addressing the nature of success. — **M. McCall**

☹️ ☹️ 😐 😊 🤪

PRINT



Azealia Banks’ Playboy cover

She may be broke with expensive taste, but indie rapper Azealia Banks’ recent Playboy photoshoot is nothing but a cheap attempt at garnering some publicity just after her album’s physical release. It’s time to ditch the publicity stunts and let the music speak for itself. — **J. Wittich**

☹️ ☹️ 😐 😊 🤪



“Ikea bans fun, says no more hide-and-seek in stores”

In this March 17 article, CNN reported that the Swedish furniture store has asked shoppers to stop playing hide-and-seek in their massive stores, which is lame because that’s part of the reason people even visit Ikea. — **M. Bennett**

☹️ ☹️ 😐 😊 🤪

RANDOM



Avocados

Avocados are not just an ingredient, they are a lifestyle. They can be used in almost anything like on top of a freshly baked pizza or for a moisturizing facemask. Keep your kitchen stocked with avocados like me and enjoy them as a delicious snack. — **L. Kostiuk**

☹️ ☹️ 😐 😊 🤪



Speck phone cases

For the longest time, I thought my iPhone 5 was immune to destruction. But over the months, my cellular device has begun to take a beating. In response, I got a Speck phone case, and I think my phone has been happier ever since. — **K. Davis**

☹️ ☹️ 😐 😊 🤪



CAMPUS EDITORIAL

NATIONAL EDITORIAL

Adding students adds no benefits

IN THE FRONT Page article about class sizes, Senior Vice President and Provost Stan Wearden states that increasing average class sizes by one student could save the college \$1 million. In the grand scheme of things, \$1 million is not a lot of money, and although fundraising and cutting administrative positions is the answer to most of the problems the administration has made for itself, the convenient tagline of “one student, \$1 million” seems like an easy enough ploy for the administration to force on the college.

Adding more students to classes is a lazy way to temporarily fix the budget crisis Columbia is currently facing. Raising the ceiling on the number of students in each class will only serve to cut courses and sections, which in turn cuts jobs—that is where \$1 million, or any amount of money, comes from. Fewer courses and sections directly affects students and their ability to graduate on time, and more students means less attention for individual students. Students and faculty continue to be the ones who suffer the most from the solutions to the problems the administration alone creates.

One of the many reasons students decide to attend Columbia is to have the benefit of smaller class sizes. Smaller class sizes allow students to cultivate more beneficial relationships with their peers and professors. Collaborations and discussions flourish in smaller classes, as students are able to focus more on one another and their work rather than drown in a sea of faces hidden behind laptops in a lecture hall.

The benefits of smaller class sizes are endless. One-on-one attention is especially crucial to many of the majors the college offers. One student added to a class of 15 may seem insignificant, but in classes that workshop writing or oral performance, one more student is one too many, as it is another individual who demands the attention and energy of the professor and fellow students.

Columbia offers an incredibly diverse curriculum. Its classes are the reasons people come to and

stay at the college. Even the majors one can pursue at the college are unparalleled. Columbia is the only college in the country that offers a major in comedy, but the experience of studying comedy—or any major for that matter—at Columbia will be undercut by shoving more students into already-packed classrooms.

Though the expectation is that college students do not require hand-holding—the argument being that students do not need to be led by the hand through every college class they take—larger classes need more crowd control than smaller classes, as professors must spend more time wrangling the attention and silence of students.

It is also far easier to fall through the cracks in a class of 60 students than in a class of 13 because one cannot expect a professor to tend to each and every student’s needs. Does each student require individual attention? Certainly not, but the disconnect one feels in a lecture hall can deter a student from truly engaging.

The administration’s decision to add more students to classes just to meet the bottom line is indicative of a resounding apathetic attitude toward students and faculty.

Furthermore, it seems the administration is incapable of taking into account the needs of the students in the name of balancing the budget, as students have little to no voice in the matter.

The administration has overlooked the easy solution to this avoidable problem, though—a solution that would not adversely affect the college.

Cutting superfluous administrative positions that provide six-figure salaries or even forcing administrators to take pay cuts could easily amend the budget crisis rather than shoving more students into classes and cutting the crucial jobs of professors. It would be a good show of faith rather than disregarding the things students truly care about.

Students and faculty are not expendable, but hefty paychecks and fancy titles are, especially for those who do not seem to have the college’s best interest in mind.

College ratings insignificant in education decision

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT of Education has faced consistent criticism for its arbitrary college ratings system. Each year, it releases a list of the country’s colleges and their respective ratings despite the list and its merits being called into question. The ratings are intended to help individuals decide which college they should attend each year, but the list is relative and too often favors expensive legacy schools—colleges that are more likely far-fetched pipe dreams rather than actual attainable goals.

The constant stream of criticism the department fields after its annual ratings are released has resulted in possible changes for the system. According to a March 16 Chronicle of Higher Education report, the U.S. Department of Education intends to implement two rating systems rather than fixing the current, already flawed system currently in place.

Each new rating system would be geared toward a specific demographic. One rating system would be for the “consumers”—because that is what students really are—and the other for the institutions themselves. The measured data

and metrics that make up a rating would vary, though, meaning the results from one system may be favored over the results from the other.

Though the argument that students would benefit from knowing where their college stands and college administrations may be held more accountable is reasonable, supporting any rating system at all is pointless.

Most students do not say yes or no to a college because of its position on a list—comparing the offerings of Columbia to those of MIT and Yale is fruitless. They usually decide on a college based on several factors that metrics cannot determine such as proximity to home and the quality of faculty.

The data the current rating system provides is important in understanding a college’s retention and graduation rates as well as its tuition and student population, but categorizing colleges based on these factors alone does not speak to the diverse communities, curricula and experiences colleges across the country offer.

One of the proposed systems would aid in holding colleges accountable and determining

federal aid, but the idea that students should choose a college because of its position on what is just another listicle speaks to the consumerism of the education industrial complex. These ratings do not reflect the needs and concerns of students, but the needs and concerns of investors.

The Department of Education should instead encourage students to research every facet of their potential college choice rather than encourage them to scroll through lists of numbers that do not provide the insight needed to determine where to spend tens of thousands of dollars on a degree. Data is important in making the decision between spending \$60,000 a year versus spending \$20,000 a year, but data alone should not be the reason someone chooses to attend this school over another.

Students owe it to themselves to trust their own instincts and intuition rather than numbers churned out by the education industrial complex that considers them “consumers” and not individuals pursuing the wealth of a well-rounded education and the opportunities an education can offer.

EDITORIAL CARTOON



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Did you catch a mistake, think we could have covered a story better or have strong beliefs about an issue that faces all of us here at Columbia? Why not write a letter to the editor? At the bottom of Page 2, you'll find a set of guidelines on how to do this. Let us hear from you.
—The Columbia Chronicle Editorial Board

Israeli elections demonstrate democracy despite final outcome



ABBY SEITZ
Sports & Health Reporter

ISRAELIS VISITED THE polls on March 17 to exercise their right to vote as citizens of the only true democracy in the Middle East. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the leader of Israel’s right-wing Likud Party, was elected for a fourth term as prime minister, much to the dismay of progressive Israelis and Jews worldwide, though the left-leaning Zionist Union and its leader Isaac Herzog—Netanyahu’s main opposition—were projected to win in several polls.

When asked by Israeli news organization NRG on election eve if a Palestinian state would not be established during his reign, Netanyahu answered, “Indeed.” After winning the election, Netanyahu clarified in a March

19 interview with MSNBC that he was not retracting previous statements that supported a two-state solution. “I want a sustainable, peaceful two-state solution,” Netanyahu said. “But for that [to happen] circumstances have to change.” Despite Netanyahu’s attempts to clarify two days later, the comment only fueled the international

not realize is the typical Israeli citizen’s priorities; 60 percent of Israelis said they support the establishment of a Palestinian state, according to a June 2014 survey by the Dialog Institute. The Israeli support for Netanyahu does not correlate with the average citizen’s views on creating two states. The survival of Israel is the top concern for citizens, and Netanya-

citizens with his car in Jerusalem on March 6, according to a same-day ABC News report. These attacks instill a constant fear in the Israeli public. Israel is also surrounded by neighbors that call for its destruction, such as Hamas in the Gaza Strip. Hamas’ charter calls for a genocide of the Jewish people and a dismantling of the Jewish state by radicals.

actions that I take to ensure that survival, not one day.” Netanyahu has made it clear through his actions in his nine years as prime minister that he can promise a secure future for Israel as a state and as a homeland for the Jewish people.

A Palestinian state cannot be established alongside the existing Jewish state if Israel’s enemies are given opportunities to destroy and dismantle Israel. The Israeli people have voiced what their priorities are. As Americans, we share many values with the State of Israel and its people, such as democracy, freedom of speech, diversity and minority rights. While the Israeli left and the international community may be dismayed with the outcome of the Israeli elections, the Israeli people have spoken. They have selected Netanyahu as their next leader, and as Israel’s strongest ally, the American people should respect that decision and celebrate the strong democratic process that allowed Netanyahu a fourth term as prime minister.

Abby Seitz is president of Students Supporting Israel at Columbia College Chicago and an intern at the Jewish United Fund’s Israel Education Center as well as a Chronicle reporter..

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While the Israeli left and the international community may be dismayed with the outcome of the Israeli elections, the Israeli people have spoken.

image of Netanyahu as an unreliable, aggressive and conflict-hungry leader who does not actively want to make peace with neighboring Palestinian leadership. The possibility of the left’s victory gave a glimmer of hope that Israel could work to resume peace talks with Palestinian leaders and avoid future warfare. Many abroad may be skeptical of Israel’s commitment to peace after voting for a right-wing government led by Netanyahu only a day after his comments against Palestine. What many members of the international community do

hu has proven in the past that the Jewish state will not fall while he is prime minister. This concept is likely difficult to grasp for those who have been fortunate enough to grow up in the U.S. Terror attacks on American soil are rare, and Americans live with little fear of their country being annihilated during their lifetime. The same cannot be said for Israelis. As soon as Israeli children learn to walk, they are taught how to run to a bomb shelter. Radical terror attacks are not uncommon; a Palestinian man hit five Israeli

Netanyahu emphasized the differences between the U.S. and Israel in his March 2 address at the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee Policy Conference. “America lives in one of the world’s safest neighborhoods,” Netanyahu said. “Israel lives in the world’s most dangerous neighborhood.... American leaders worry about the security of their country. Israeli leaders worry about the survival of their country.... I think that encapsulates the difference.... There’s not a single day, not one day that I didn’t think about the survival of my country and the

How do you feel about lecture hall classes?

STUDENT POLL



“They’re a little bit more impersonal, but they can get a lot more people into the school [and] a lot more people educated.”

Lazaro Suarez senior advertising major



“I’ve only been in one of them. It was fine. At least in the programs I have taken them in, we get the one-on-one attention. The teachers will make time for you. They’ll make time for your questions and make sure everybody is up to speed.”

Marshall Fenty junior audio arts & acoustics major

The Chronicle encourages readers to submit Letters to the Editor regarding its content, opposing views and issues pertaining to the college.

At the bottom of Page 2, you’ll find a set of guidelines on how to do this. We want to hear from you.

—The Columbia Chronicle

Trigger warnings cripple value of education



CAITLIN LOONEY
Opinions Editor

TRIGGER WARNINGS, A variant on the psychological term “trauma trigger,” are a practice most commonly utilized online—whether in blogs, forums or even articles—to warn readers that the content they are about to scroll through may trigger traumatic memories from their past. Trigger warnings are meant to help those who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder maneuver the Internet and its constant barrage of emotionally “triggering” content. Trigger warnings have their place and purpose, but that place and purpose does not belong in a college setting.

Trigger warnings only serve to dilute the issues that students should be exploring in-depth and in context. College is not the place for picking and choosing curricula to students’ comfort levels. College is the place to discuss and learn about the brutal histories and current state of the world. It is not the place to avoid reality, even if that reality may affect them in adverse ways. Demanding that a college rework curricula or preface every lesson with warnings in order to cater to the varying psychological stresses students may have is unfair to those who have come to college in order to learn about the issues that cannot be easily explored outside of academia. Colleges provide learning environments conducive to discussing the dark, twisted corners of history, culture and current events. Trigger warnings only undermine these discussions and lessons by making both students and faculty hyperaware of other’s sensitivities. These warnings effectively cripple any sort of constructive learning experience that could have been gleaned by engaging with each other and the course material in a critical and

thoughtful manner. According to an April 14, 2014, Inside Higher Ed report, Oberlin College came under fire for recommending a trigger warning policy in classes. The initial policy encouraged professors to cut unnecessary and possibly triggering material from their syllabuses and to “be aware of racism, classism, sexism, heterosexism, cissexism, ableism, and other issues of privilege and oppression.” The policy has since been amended after academic freedom came into question, but the issues the policy brought up are worth consideration—just not in the way the college meant. Racism, classism and so on should not be avoided or tiptoed around as the college suggested, but discussed in detail, as that is what college provides for the atrocities of humanity that can induce PTSD episodes—context. Avoiding subject matter or even being aware of the need to be sensitive of subject matter is censorship in effect. There is no need for classes to entertain every sick facet of the human condition in lessons about the Holocaust, slavery or rape culture, but

scrubbing curricula of disturbing content minimizes its magnitude and significance. Though PTSD is a frightening reality for thousands of people, many of whom are students, others should not have to alter their education or censor themselves in order to accommodate the discomfort of a single student. In registering for classes, students should recognize a course that may contain content that could negatively affect their state of mind. It is not the college or professor’s responsibility to tailor a curriculum to the mental state of each individual student—it is impossible. Students should take it upon themselves to exercise care in choosing classes. Researching the content of a syllabus and whether the topic is triggering be left to the student. It should go without saying that students should research the content of a syllabus either way, but for those who know that certain material can be triggering, it is their duty to themselves to take the necessary action to avoid such things. Students must advocate for themselves when it comes to their mental health and well-being,

particularly in the classroom, but their advocacy should not directly affect the learning of their peers. Haphazardly demanding trigger warnings across the board is foolish and detrimental to academia and the learning experience as a whole. Professors cannot and should not be expected to cover all bases. If a course is required for a student and contains possibly triggering material, the student should address the issue head-on with the administration and professor—perhaps alternate material or classes can be provided. Nonetheless, glossing over the horrors of the world in the name of making people feel more comfortable is antithetical to learning which in practice encourages empathy and understanding. Learning allows people to move beyond the ignorance and ugliness of the past and present to create a future that does not repeat mistakes. Learning creates perspective and sparks conversation that can create change. Without learning—even though aspects of it may be disturbing—society would remain stagnant and incapable of growth.

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APPLY FOR 2015-2016 FINANCIAL AID

— FOLLOW THE STEPS/COMPLETE YOUR FINANCIAL PLAN —



**SUBMIT YOUR 2015-2016
FAFSA AT WWW.FAFSA.GOV**



**FILE YOUR 2014 TAXES
ELECTRONICALLY**



**UPDATE YOUR FAFSA ONLINE WITH
THE IRS DATA RETRIEVAL TOOL**

APPLY FOR 2015-2016 FINANCIAL AID FOLLOW THE STEPS/COMPLETE YOUR FINANCIAL PLAN

SUBMIT YOUR FAFSA ONLINE AT WWW.FAFSA.GOV

When: As soon as January 1st

If you won't have your taxes filed by this time, use estimated income figures to submit your FAFSA. Submitting your 2015-2016 FAFSA by February 1st will allow you to:

- Receive your 2015-2016 Award Letter by April 2015
- Get a head start on completing Columbia Scholarship applications - Deadlines for completed applications begin February 1st.

FILE YOUR 2014 TAXES ELECTRONICALLY WITH THE IRS

When: During the month of February

Learn about tax incentives and free tax preparation services you may be eligible to receive by visiting colum.edu/becomemoneysmart and click, "Tax Incentive Information" for more details. Completing your 2014 taxes during February will allow you to:

- Update your FAFSA with your actual tax figures using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool

UPDATE YOUR FAFSA ONLINE WITH THE IRS DATA RETRIEVAL TOOL

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Log onto www.fafsa.gov to make FAFSA Corrections. Using the IRS Data Retrieval tool will allow you to:

- Reduce the number of potential errors on your FAFSA for a more accurate 2015-2016 Award Letter
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STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES

Illinois may see medical amnesty bill

MATT MCCALL
Metro Editor

IF THE FRIENDS of Margaret Stevens, a Columbia freshman whose name has been changed to protect her identity, had not been afraid to call 911, she may have gotten help for her alcohol poisoning sooner.

A new law before the Illinois Senate could keep underage drinkers afraid of arrest or citation, like Stevens, from harm's way.

Passed by the Illinois House in early March, House Bill 1336 is trying to amend the law so underage drinkers will not receive a citation from police for dialing 911 if they or a friend are in need of medical attention while intoxicated.

If passed by the Illinois Senate this month, the state will join 21 others and the District of Columbia in passing medical amnesty legislation. Illinois passed similar legislation for narcotics in 2012 after a wave of heroin overdoses swept across the state.

Not one to party often, Stevens drank too much one night. Suddenly, she found herself at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. She later learned two of her friends had

found her unresponsive at the party and had carried her to a Red Line train. They called 911 after reaching her apartment.

Stevens, 18, was not hurt or issued a citation. She spent three hours waiting in the emergency room before taking a sobriety test and being released. The story could have ended very differently, and it has for many people like her.

"I was terrified," she said. "I'm usually not the type of kid to do this, but since I'm a freshman, things are just so new to me. It really hits you and opens your eyes a little bit."

The bill's primary sponsor, State Rep. Scott Drury (D-Highwood), became aware of the issue through an incident involving a family in his district. Their high school-aged daughter drank too much at a party and became sick. Instead of calling the police, her friends left her behind. Recognizing that she needed serious help, an acquaintance called 911 and within minutes Emergency Medical Technicians and the police arrived on the scene. The girl lived, but both the girl and the 911 caller were issued tickets.

"The parents just thought that was wrong," Drury said. "What

we're trying to accomplish is to make sure that kids who need medical help and could face the ultimate punishment of death are able to get it and are not deterred from seeking it."

Not all teens have been as lucky as Stevens or the girl in Drury's district. There were nine alcohol-related deaths of Illinois residents under the age of 21 between 2008–

2012, the latest data available, according to the Illinois Department of Public Health. This does not include the many injured while driving under the influence.

Even if the law is passed, it will do little good if the public does not know about it, Drury said.

Brett Finbloom, 18, was found without a pulse in his Indiana home in 2012 after drinking with friends

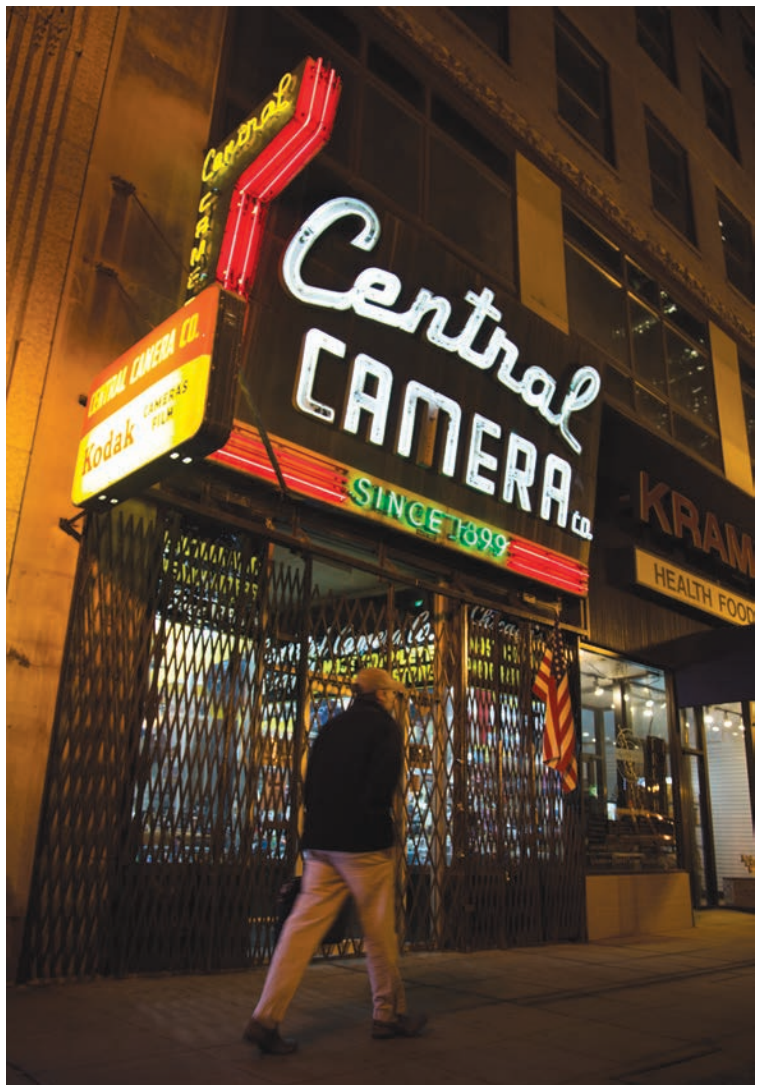
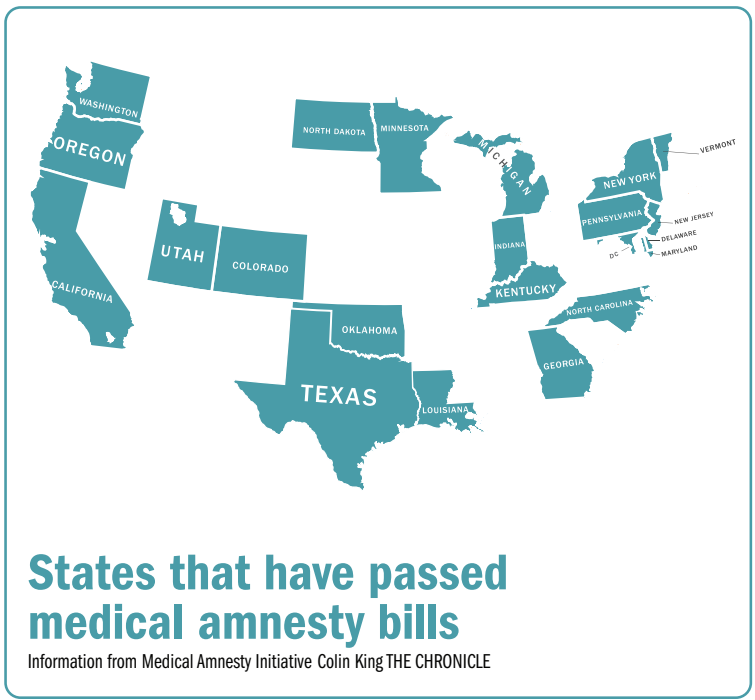
who did not know about the law passed quietly in their state only two months prior. He may not have died if someone had called for help sooner, Drury said.

If high school and college students delay seeking medical help and attention, the consequences can potentially be life-threatening, said Eric Foster, vice president for Substance Abuse Policy at the Illinois Alcoholism and Drug Dependence Association.

Foster said binge drinking and symptoms of alcohol poisoning, such as vomiting and passing out, are not taken seriously enough on college campuses. A 2014 national survey by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration found 63 percent of underage drinkers did not see any great risk in binge drinking.

"There's not the seriousness taken to it being a life-threatening state," he said. "We think about college, it's like, 'Oh yeah, I threw up last night—I had a great time.' In reality, your body has rejected the alcohol that's in your system. It's almost like the body's self-protection against dying."

» [SEE ALCOHOL, PG. 39](#)



Kaitlin Hetterscheidt THE CHRONICLE
Central Camera Co.'s sign at 230 S. Wabash Ave. is one of the few neon signs left in Chicago. Such signs once illuminated nearly every storefront.

Appreciation of neon signs marks end of an era

SARAH MARTINSON
Metro Reporter

PRESERVATION CHICAGO, an organization advocating for the preservation of Chicago-based historic architecture, neighborhoods and urban spaces, released its annual top seven Most Endangered Buildings list March 4. The list includes neon signs. While not buildings, they are definitely endangered.

The organization's "Chicago 7" list said neon signs used to be on every commercial street throughout the city. Now, the signs are scattered across town and are a rare sight to see, according to the list.

Chicago is losing an iconic part of its landscape as neon signs disappear, said Joe Hayes, president of Hayes Properties, a real estate company that refurbishes old buildings. He collects neon signs to hang in the leasing company's Ravenswood Billboard Factory event space, 4025 N. Ravenswood Ave., and said neon signs marked a historic boom in American commerce.

"If you look around, there's a few

people who will create a new neon sign for their business, because it's cheaper and more economical to just put a sign against their building," Hayes said. "[Neon signs are] kind of a lost art."

Ward Miller, executive director of Preservation Chicago, said he remembered when neon signs were a distinct feature of Chicago. He said the buildings on Randolph Street downtown would glow at night from the radiant signs.

“Neon signs were a key marketing and advertising tool. They had a visceral effect on people.”

—Nick Freeman

"Neon signs were once an iconic part of Chicago's landscape," Miller said. "Our hope is that listing neon signs as an endangered architectural ornament will raise people's awareness of their importance."

Nick Freeman, author of "Good Old Neon: Signs You're in Chica-

go," which is about the city's neon signs, has elevated photographing the signs to an art form.

"Neon signs were a key marketing and advertising tool," Freeman said. "They had a visceral effect on people."

Freeman said customers would associate amusement parks, hotels and restaurants with the glowing signs displayed outside of them. Neon signs were cheap and affordable during their popularity in the

'40s and '50s, but Freeman said they are now more expensive to produce. Like print photography, he said neon sign manufacturing and maintenance is expensive because few companies still do it. In Chicago, there used to be 200

» [SEE NEON, PG. 39](#)

THE CHI-TOWN LOW DOWN

Social media watchdogs tweet, photograph truth of Chicago crime

NATALIE CRAIG *MANAGING EDITOR*

I WAS FIRST introduced to the Instagram account @SPOTNEWSonIG last summer when a friend told me he saw some shocking pictures on Instagram from crime scenes across Chicago. He opened the account and handed me his iPhone. I saw a bloodied body lying lifelessly on the ground near a gas station. Police surrounded the body, some crouched down for a closer look while a photographer snapped pictures of shell casings scattered around the scene. A second photo on the account revealed the victim's bloody face, which was almost unrecognizable.

Before I could say anything, I was shocked at what I was seeing and even more shocked to read the comments below the photo where people claimed the dead man was their relative and others begged the poster to remove the image from the account.

Another thing I noticed about the photos was that whoever took the photo appeared to be inside of the yellow crime scene tape. I wondered who this person was, and I still do. Was it a journalist, a police officer, a first responder or just someone at the scene? Was

this person violating some kind of ethics code? The questions boggled me for the longest time as I continued to follow the photographer on Instagram and Twitter. That is when I learned there was more than one person behind showing and telling about what happens at Chicago crime scenes.

With the hashtags #CrimeisDown, #S--tCPDSays and #ChicagoScanner, @SPOTNEWSonIG works with other Twitter users such as @Chicago_Scanner to keep the social media world informed of crimes as soon as they occur. They even live tweet information and police calls from radio scanners that have access to the Chicago Police Department's radio dispatch and communication.

Having these social media accounts in place gives Chicagoans and other social media users across the country a glimpse of what is really happening in Chicago.

Although the images of crime scenes on Instagram are uncensored and often show dead bodies, blood and the emotions of those surrounding the crime scene, they offer an unparalleled view of the reality of gang and gun violence



and Chicago's rising crime rates.

Living downtown and even in other parts of the city that are not as affected by poverty and violent crime, it is easy to disregard the growing issues that South Side and West Side residents face every day.

Although I first thought the posting of crime scenes and dead bodies was unethical and disrespectful to the victim's family, it makes these situations more real to those who consume other forms of news, which are often times censored to shield the public from the gruesome reality that is Chicago's rising crime and homicide rates.

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NOTABLE *native*

LAURA AMBRIZ

Occupation: Student Neighborhood: Little Village



Courtesy ROBERT KNAPP

BIANCA MARTINEZ

Metro Reporter

What other events have you put together?

LAURA AMBRIZ, A junior at Jones College Prep High School, won the "Youth of the Year" award from the Boys and Girls Club of Chicago on March 10, a culmination of her struggle as a young immigrant who moved to the U.S. from Mexico in 2004. She earned a \$2,000 scholarship and a visit to the college of her choice. The award was given to seven young people who have become role models and leaders in their communities.

Ambriz is a member of the Boys and Girls Club of Chicago where she participates in activities like swimming boot camp and leadership programs and she also holds events at the club.

Ambriz was 6-year-old when she moved to Chicago from Mexico. She said when she first came to the U.S., she had a hard time adjusting to American culture and felt very lonely because she did not fit in anywhere.

Ambriz decided to join the Boys and Girls Club when she found out that they had swimming and leadership programs and felt an immediate sense of belonging.

The Chronicle spoke with Ambriz about immigrating to the U.S., joining the Boys and Girls Club and winning the "Youth of the Year Award."

THE CHRONICLE: What do you do at the Boys and Girls Club?

LAURA AMBRIZ: Today, I am going to go at 6 p.m. and do a swimming boot camp. Then at seven I have a leadership program. In that program, it is a group of teens and we organize events for the community. Yesterday we had planned a pool party for the younger members. We had a St. Patrick's Day pool party that was really fun. It is a really good service and leadership experience.

What is your favorite experience from being in the club?

I like the idea that everyone plays an important role. Everybody can say their ideas and from everyone's ideas we are able to make the event possible.

For Thanksgiving, we have a Thanksgiving dinner for the members. We plan a Christmas dinner for the club members and their families. The purpose of the event was for the members to create poetry, dance and cheerleading and the parents would have a chance to see what their child has been doing at the Boys and Girls Club. That was a really good time for parents to bond with the children. So being able to see them one evening and see what they are doing at the club was really nice.

Do you connect with the kids at the Boys and Girls Club?

I did an internship at the Boys and Girls Club a few years ago, and I got to interact with new members. I got to play sports with them and I chaperoned on field trips. I also had my own dance club. I would teach them a few steps, and they would perform it at the end of the summer camp. It was really nice to see how kids look up to you. To this day, I still talk to a lot of them and still go to the Boys and Girls Club. Yesterday at the swimming pool, I was inside the pool playing water games with the rest of the kids, and it was really fun to see how they really look up to you.

How did you feel when you won the "Youth of the Year Award?"

I was very overwhelmed. It represents all of the struggles that I went through when I got here. It was a lot of hard work. As they were announcing the names, I was really nervous. I felt so amazing when they called my name, I almost could not believe it. I took me a while to recognize that I had won.

What do you plan on doing with the award?

I plan on putting the scholarship toward my college education. I have not decided where I want to go yet, but I am looking into it. I feel honored to have won.

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FEATURED PHOTO



Kaitlin Hetterscheidt THE CHRONICLE

The Garfield Park Conservatory's spring show celebrates its grand reopening after the 2011 hailstorm that damaged the premises. The "Sun Showers" show has more than 200 umbrellas hanging from the glass ceiling, along with hundreds of different spring flowers. The show runs until May 10.

Chicago Loop Alliance transforms Wabash Avenue into Magnificent Mile

SARAH MARTINSON
Metro Reporter

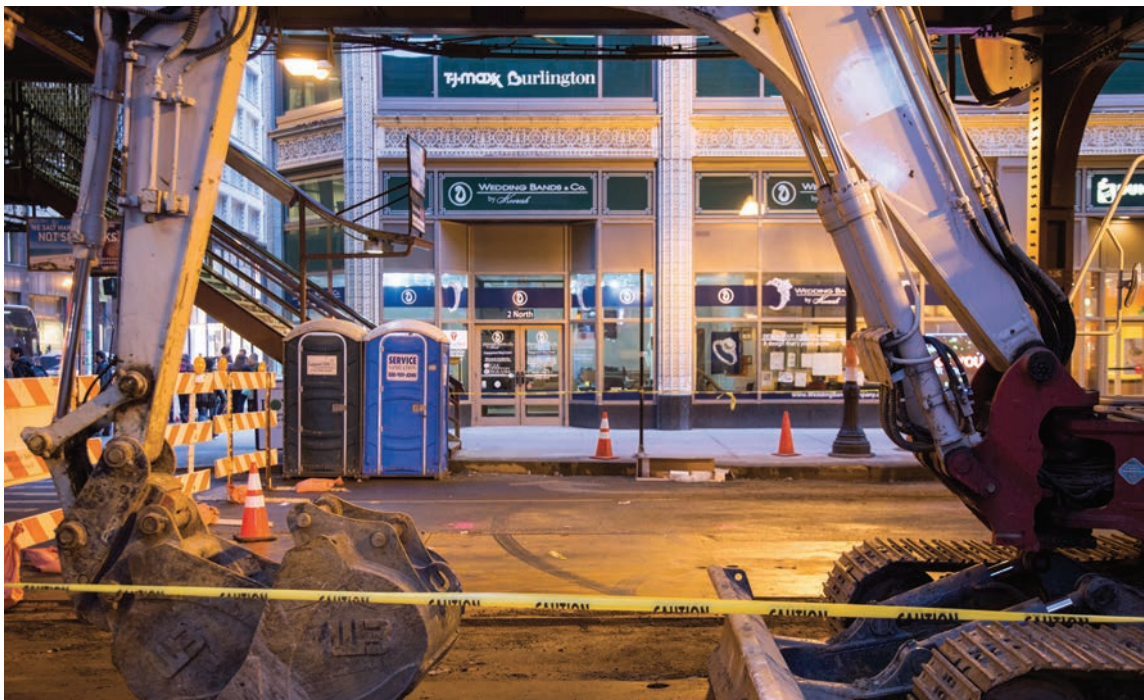
FROM WACKER DRIVE to Congress Parkway, the Chicago Loop Alliance is spearheading a new infrastructure project, “Layers of Transformation,” to transform Wabash Avenue into a premier Chicago tourist destination.

Michael Edwards, president and CEO of Chicago Loop Alliance, an organization contracted by the City of Chicago to generate city revenue, said the goal of the project is to draw tourists from Michigan Avenue and Millennium Park to Wabash Avenue.

The CLA’s plan is to beautify Wabash Avenue by adding brighter overhead street lights, establishing a more effective street-cleaning system—including removing graffiti—and rerouting Chicago Transit Authority buses from Michigan Avenue and Millennium Park through Wabash, Edwards said.

Creating a visually appealing, luxurious environment with improved CTA service will show visitors what Wabash has to offer, Edwards said.

The first major development in the Wabash transformation project is the construction of an el station at Wabash and Washington. The construction of the el station is currently the largest project the CLA plans to undertake and is expected to require 18 months for comple-



Kaitlin Hetterscheidt THE CHRONICLE

The block of Wabash Avenue between Madison and Washington streets will be closed for next 18 months due to the construction of the new Wabash and Washington stop.

tion. Beginning March 16, the Wabash/Madison stop that services the Brown, Pink, Green, Orange and Purple lines will no longer be operational, Edwards said.

Edwards said many neighborhood residents are apprehensive about the addition of the new stop.

“After seeing the ruckus between Madison and Washington, people are worried further renovations on Wabash will cause more disruption,” Edwards said.

At this point in the project, Edwards said the businesses on Jeweler’s Row, located on Wabash on

the block between Madison and Washington streets, have the most concerns. Jeweler’s Row is currently closed due to the construction of the el stop. Because of this, businesses on Jeweler’s Row will be blocked off and may have fewer walk-in customers, he said.

Jason Zastrow, sales associate at R.L. Jewelers, 1 N. Wabash Ave., said he is most concerned about the holidays. He said business is good now because of the warm weather, and many people are walking place to place, but foot traffic decreases in brutal winter conditions.

“Come Christmas season, this is going to be the major concern because then people can’t get around,” Zastrow said. “They can’t valet. They can’t park anywhere around here within blocks and blocks of the neighborhood.”

Across the street from R.L. Jewelers, Koorosh Daneshgar, chief designer and CEO at Wedding Bands and Co., 2 N. Wabash Ave., said he is not worried about the construction hurting his business. He said most of his clients come into his store after finding him online and researching his work.

“It’s not like you go, ‘I’m going to walk [in] today and buy a \$100,000 ring,’” Daneshgar said.

Edwards said he thinks the Wabash transformation project would benefit businesses on Jeweler’s Row in the long run because more tourists would visit the area, providing increased revenue.

The CLA will not undertake any other renovation projects until the el stop is complete, Edwards said. He said the other proposed projects depend on the outcome of the stop’s completion.

Edwards said the CLA planned the “Layers of Transformation” project after undertaking a five-year strategic plan to study the economic activity of the entire Loop area. During that time, the CLA held public panels and workshops for businesses and new residents to give their input about how to bring more tourists and residents to the downtown area. It was the first strategic plan study the alliance had done in many years, he said.

“The study was based upon what are our economic drivers, how are they performing and what does that mean in terms of what we should be doing,” Edwards said. “After the Great Recession of 2008, the world shifted, and so we wanted to better understand how downtown was performing within this sort of new economy, this new reality.”

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The School of Liberal Arts and Sciences Announces the

The Paula F. Pfeffer and Cheryl Johnson-Odim POLITICAL CARTOON CONTEST



WHERE ARE THOSE PEOPLE’S EYES?

Above: last year’s winning entry from YUNJING LI

ATTENTION STUDENTS:

Are you an illustrator? Do you have your pulse on-and something to say about-the historical, cultural, and political issues taking place in the world?

Submit an original political cartoon for the 2015 Paula F. Pfeffer & Cheryl Johnson-Odim Political Cartoon Contest for your chance to win a cash prize. A panel of judges from various academic departments will select five cartoons from the pool of submissions, and then award cash prizes to the students who created them. The First Place winner will receive \$550, Second Place will receive \$450, Third Place will receive \$350, and two Honorable Mention winners will each receive \$250.

In addition to cash prizes, all winners receive a certificate and will be honored at a reception on Tuesday, April 28, at the Columbia College Chicago Library.

SUBMISSIONS:

Both single-panel and multi-panel cartoons are acceptable for this contest. Submitted cartoons must be drawn or printed on 8.5x11 white paper. Please include your full name, address, phone number, student ID number, and email address on the back of the entry. You can submit up to five cartoons, and you can win more than one prize if you submit more than one cartoon.

HAND-DELIVER OR MAIL YOUR SUBMISSIONS TO:

Oscar Valdez
Re: Political Cartoon Contest
Department of Humanities, History, and Social Sciences
624 S. Michigan Ave.
10th floor, Suite 1000

For more information, visit colum.edu/PCC or contact Dr. Teresa Prados-Torreira, tprados-torreira@colum.edu or 312-369-7567

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THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT CARTOONS IS
FRIDAY, APRIL 10

Proposed budget cuts will severely affect CTA

BIANCA MARTINEZ
Metro Reporter

BUDGET CUTS TO Chicago Transit Authority finances of more than \$130 million proposed by Gov. Bruce Rauner may further stifle CTA construction, take away CTA station improvements, inconvenience riders even more than the current normal delays and possibly spark a fare increase.

These budget cuts would also affect Metra and Pace, according to a Regional Transportation Authority press release dated March 19. Altogether, there could be about \$169.5 million in cuts region-wide. The cuts would begin on July 1 and end on June 30, 2016, according to the press release.

The governor’s proposed budget represents losses in three areas: It would “reduce the amount the state matches on total regional sales tax revenues by one-third, representing a \$127 million cut from the \$380 million that the state had budgeted for fiscal year 2016; eliminate \$34 million used to administer the state-mandated free ride and the federally-mandated reduced fare programs for seniors and persons with disabilities; and ... would eliminate \$8.5 million used to operate the federally-mandated ADA paratransit service.”

The paratransit program is a subsidized service for the disabled and



Kelly Wenzel THE CHRONICLE

Gov. Bruce Rauner’s proposed budget cuts of more than \$105 million could impact CTA rehabs and fixes at multiple locations throughout the city, according to a press release from the Regional Transportation Authority.

seniors which transports people from their homes and allows them to ride CTA and Metra for free.

The free ride and reduced fare programs cost the RTA \$130 million annually, according to the RTA release, so the funding cut would reduce the budget for those services by approximately 25 percent.

Chris Mooney, director of the Institute of Government and Public Affairs in the Department of Political Science at the University of Illinois, said the cuts could affect more

than just CTA riders.

The Active Transportation Alliance, is a nonprofit advocacy organization that helps improve conditions for cyclists, walkers and commuters. ATA Campaign Director Kyle Whitehead does not think these cuts are being handled correctly.

“We recognize that the state is in a difficult financial situation and the governor is faced with making some tough decisions,” Whitehead said.

The cuts would affect all forms of transit in the Chicago system:

elevated trains, both city and suburban buses and a Metra commuter rail, according to Whitehead.

He said the impact of the proposed cuts will be severe and if carried out, transit authorities will be forced to make tough decisions, which will hurt commuters.

“Our riders do not want service cuts,” Whitehead said. “They do not want fare increases,”

Jacky Grimshaw, a CTA board member, said government budget cuts are not the right solution be-

cause transit is important to the economic stability. Cutting back on the funds that operate the transit systems would make it more difficult for people to get to work, she said.

“You have two kinds of transit riders—those who have other options of transportation such as driving or taking the bus and riders that are dependent that will be hurt,” Grimshaw said.

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» **ALCOHOL**
Continued from PG. 35

As an increasing number of states adopt medical amnesty laws, college campuses are following suit. More than 240 colleges and universities have some form of the law in the books, including Cornell University since 2002, according to Students for Sensible Drug Policy. A 2006 survey at the college found the policy was effective.

The Cornell survey found that before the policy was implemented, 19 percent of Cornell students reported they had considered calling 911 for someone they thought may need medical attention because of alcohol consumption. Only 4 percent made the call. Two years after the amnesty policy was introduced, calls increased by 22 percent.

Aaron Letzeiser, founder and executive director of the Medical Amnesty Initiative, a national nonprofit that works for the introduction and passage of medical amnesty legislation, said these laws have had a tremendous impact in other states. Doctors and EMTs have reported that calls are now coming in when underage drinkers are in earlier stages of alcohol poisoning.

“The legislation helps to reduce that barrier of fear to seeking help,” Letzeiser said. “Young people are making calls at the first sign of a medical emergency as opposed to in the past, when people would watch their friends for a while and they would debate whether to make that phone call.”

Though it is at an officer’s discretion whether to issue a citation or not, the law is designed so the caller and those who require medical attention are protected from prosecution.

If law enforcement were to show up to a party, partygoers cannot say they need medical attention to avoid the citation. Callers are required to cooperate with the police and first responders.

Letzeiser said medical professionals need to know why a person is unconscious to get them the help he or she needs, pointing to situations where a person is dropped at a hospital’s doorstep.

He cited a 2013 incident at Arizona State University where a student who passed out was propped up in a wheelchair and pushed into a hospital lobby with a sticky note telling doctors he had 20 shots of tequila in a drinking competition, according to a 2013 Associated Press report.

The people who dropped off the student were gone before anyone could speak to them, Letzeiser said.

“They’ve made the phone call, they know their friend is going to get help and they take off because they’re worried about getting in trouble,” he said. “Having those people there who know the situation is vitally important in terms of getting the appropriate care as quickly as possible. We are seeing that people are staying and they’re willing to cooperate.”

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» **NEON**
Continued from PG. 35

manufacturers and now there are only a few, Freeman said.

Hayes said repairing the glass tubing on a neon sign is as cheap as replacing a car headlight, but businesses need to have sign permits and insurance for their signs, which drive up the cost of operating them. He said neon signs are fragile and can easily get damaged from the harsh winter climate. Businesses

also choose to get rid of their neon signs for other reasons, he said.

Miller said he hopes Preservation Chicago can encourage businesses to preserve their signs because of their historical significance. He said neon signs have as much architectural merit as the buildings they represent.

Hayes started collecting neon signs for the Ravenswood event space seven years ago when the center was first opened. Neon signs create a colorful and lively back-

drop for the weddings and parties held at the center, he said.

Hayes’ collection consists of 35 different car- and Chicago-themed signs including one of the neon signs that used to be displayed outside of a parking garage owned by the City of Chicago.

“Sometimes businesses simply want something new,” Hayes said. “Cheap plastic signs are new and more affordable.”

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Kaitlin Hettterscheidt THE CHRONICLE

The Berghoff Restaurant, 17 W. Adams St., is a family-owned restaurant that has been serving authentic German dishes and beer since it opened its doors in 1898. Berghoff’s neon sign represents an iconic part of Chicago’s landscape from the ‘40s and ‘50s, when neon signs lit every street and avenue in the city.



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